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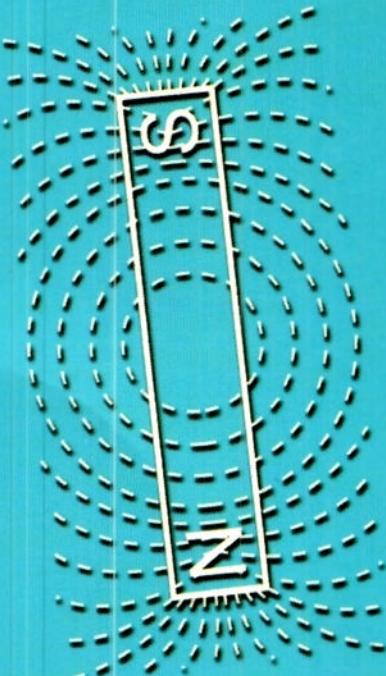
Electronic Sensor Circuits & Projects

Build projects
that detect:

- Moving air
- Tilt
- Pressure
- Direction
- Heat
- Vibration
- Movement
- Strain
- Light
- Magnetic fields

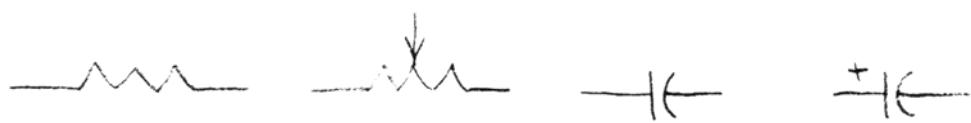
Use sensors to:

- Trigger relays
- Charge batteries
- Measure light
- Control a tone
- Monitor your PC
- And much more

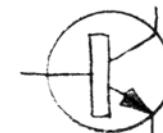
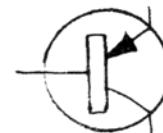
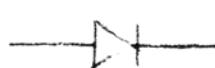


Forrest M. Mims III

CIRCUIT SYMBOLS



FIXED RESISTOR VARIABLE RESISTOR FIXED CAPACITOR POLARIZED CAPACITOR

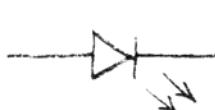


RECTIFIER/
DIODE

ZENER
DIODE

PNP
TRANSISTOR

NPN
TRANSISTOR



LED

SOLAR
CELL

PHOTO-
RESISTOR

PHOTO-
TRANSISTOR

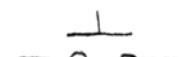


CONNECTED
WIRES

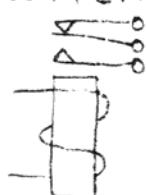
UNCONNECTED
WIRES

POSITIVE
SUPPLY

GROUND



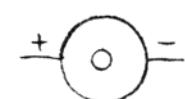
SPST
SWITCH



SPDT
SWITCH



NORMALLY
OPEN
PUSHBUTTON

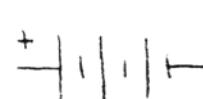


RELAY

TRANSFORMER

SPEAKER

PIEZO-
SPEAKER



METER

LAMP

BATTERY

OP-AMP

ENGINEER'S MINI-NOTEBOOK COLLECTION

SCIENCE AND
COMMUNICATIONS
CIRCUITS AND
PROJECTS

BY
FORREST M. MIMS III

FIRST PRINTING - 2000

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ABOUT THE ENGINEER'S MINI-NOTEBOOK COLLECTION

EACH BOOK IN THIS COLLECTION INCLUDES THREE OR FOUR ENGINEER'S MINI-NOTEBOOKS. EACH BOOK INCLUDES BOTH STANDARD CIRCUITS AND CIRCUITS DESIGNED BY FORREST M. MIMS III. EACH CIRCUIT WAS BUILT AND TESTED AT LEAST TWICE. THE CIRCUITS WERE ALSO BUILT FROM THE FINAL BOOK TO FIND ERRORS.

VARIATIONS IN COMPONENTS AND CONSTRUCTION METHODS MAY CAUSE YOUR RESULTS TO DIFFER FROM THOSE DESCRIBED HERE. THEREFORE THE AUTHOR AND RADIOSHACK ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUITABILITY OF THE CIRCUITS FOR ANY APPLICATION. FOR EXAMPLE, THE CIRCUITS IN THIS BOOK SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR MEDICAL APPLICATIONS, SAFETY DEVICES, TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS OR ANY OTHER USE THAT MIGHT SOMEHOW RESULT IN DAMAGE TO PROPERTY OR INJURY TO YOU OR OTHERS. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO DETERMINE IF COMMERCIAL USE, SALE OR MANUFACTURE OF ANY DEVICE BASED ON INFORMATION IN THIS BOOK INFRINGES ANY PATENT, COPYRIGHT OR OTHER RIGHT.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

DUE TO THE MANY INQUIRIES RECEIVED BY THE AUTHOR AND RADIOSHACK, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE CUSTOM CIRCUIT DESIGNS AND TECHNICAL ADVICE. YOU CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT ELECTRONICS FROM OTHER BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM RADIOSHACK AND FROM RADIOSHACK LAB KITS. ELECTRONICS MAGAZINES ARE ALSO A GOOD SOURCE OF INFORMATION. VARIOUS ELECTRONICS SITES ON THE INTERNET AND WORLD WIDE WEB ARE ALSO VERY HELPFUL.

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UNITS OF MEASUREMENT

THE METRIC SYSTEM IS USED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY IN SCIENCE. PRINCIPLE UNITS IN THIS BOOK:

INCHES TO MILLIMETERS	=	INCHES \times 25.4
MILLIMETERS TO INCHES	=	MILLIMETERS \times 0.03937
INCHES TO CENTIMETERS	=	INCHES \times 2.54
CENTIMETERS TO INCHES	=	CENTIMETERS \times 0.3937
FEET TO METERS	=	FEET \times 0.3048
METERS TO FEET	=	METERS \times 3.281
YARDS TO METERS	=	YARDS \times 0.9144
METERS TO YARDS	=	METERS \times 1.094
MILES TO KILOMETERS	=	MILES \times 1.609
KILOMETERS TO MILES	=	KILOMETERS \times 0.6214

TEMPERATURE - THE CELSIUS SCALE IS USUALLY USED IN SCIENCE. WATER FREEZES AT 0°C AND BOILS AT 100°C (SEA LEVEL). ROOM TEMPERATURE IS AROUND 23°C .

$$\text{FAHRENHEIT TO CELSIUS} = (\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F} - 32) \times 5/9$$

$$\text{CELSIUS TO FAHRENHEIT} = (\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C} \times 9/5) + 32$$

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HISTORICAL MILESTONES

- 1836 - SAMUEL F. B. MORSE INVENTS TELEGRAPH.
- 1876 - ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL INVENTS TELEPHONE.
- 1880 - ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL INVENTS PHOTOPHONE.
- 1880 - PHOTOPHONE SENDS VOICE 213 METERS.
- 1886 - HEINRICH HERTZ INVENTS SPARK TRANSMITTER.
- 1895 - GUGLIELMO MARCONI INVENTS WIRELESS TELEGRAPH.
- 1897 - NIKOLA TESLA SENDS RADIO SIGNAL 20 MILES.
- 1899 - MARCONI SENDS "..." ACROSS ATLANTIC OCEAN.
- 1899 - A. FREDERICK COLLINS SENDS VOICE OVER RADIO.
- 1907 - LEE DE FOREST INVENTS TRIODE VACUUM TUBE.
- 1907 - H. J. ROUND DISCOVERS LIGHT EMITTING DIODE.
- 1923 - O. V. LOSSEV INVENTS CRYSTAL AMPLIFIERS.
- 1925 - J. E. LILIENTFELD INVENTS FIELD-EFFECT AMPLIFIER.
- 1947 - BELL LABS INVENTS TRANSISTOR.
- 1960 - T. H. MAIMAN BUILDS FIRST RUBY LASER.
- 1962 - G. E., MIT AND IBM INVENT SEMICONDUCTOR LASER.
- 1966 - K. C. KAO PROPOSES OPTICAL FIBERS FOR LONG DISTANCE LIGHTWAVE LINKS.

I. SCIENCE PROJECTS

OVERVIEW

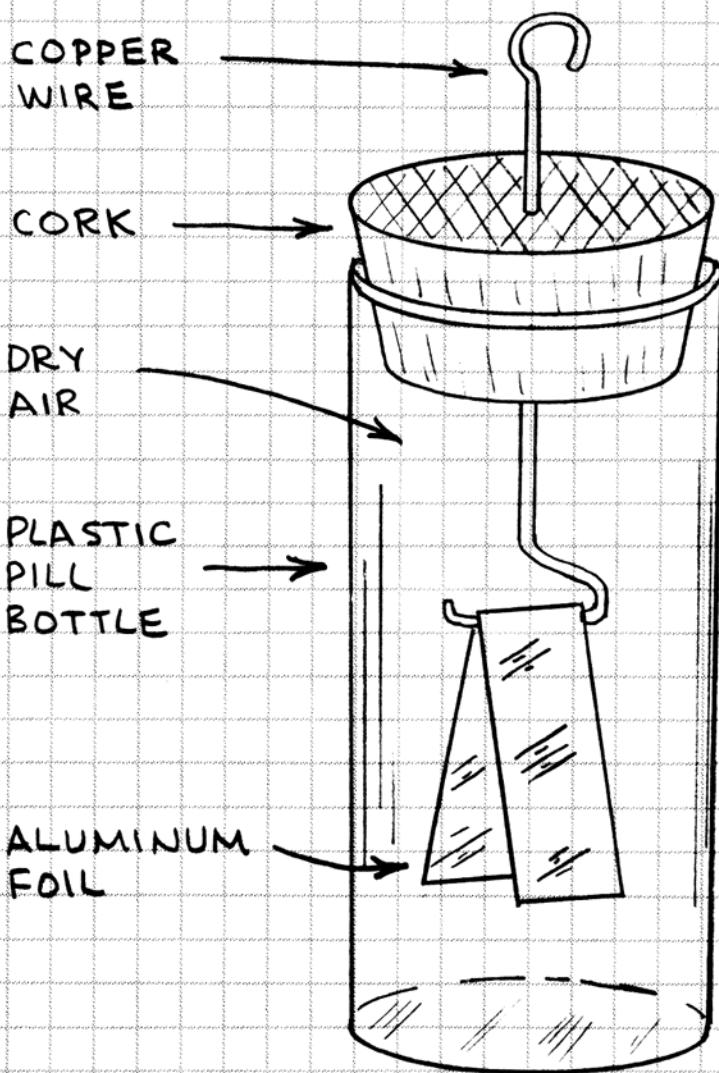
SCIENCE IS KNOWLEDGE GAINED BY ORGANIZED OBSERVATION, EXPERIMENTATION AND STUDY. THE PROJECTS THAT FOLLOW DEMONSTRATE BASIC SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES AND TECHNIQUES. SOME WILL LET YOU MEASURE TEMPERATURE, WIND SPEED, LIGHT AND POSITION. OTHERS WILL LET YOU DETECT RAIN, MOTION AND EARTH MOVEMENTS. YOU CAN LEARN MUCH BY TRYING ANY OF THE PROJECTS. YOU CAN LEARN EVEN MORE BY COMBINING PROJECTS AND MODIFYING THEM FOR OTHER PURPOSES. HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS:

1. PLAN YOUR PROJECTS. DECIDE WHAT YOU WANT TO BUILD, MEASURE OR DETECT. SET GOALS AND ACCOMPLISH THEM.
2. KEEP A NOTEBOOK. RECORD YOUR CIRCUITS, MEASUREMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS. BE ACCURATE. SIGN AND DATE EVERY PAGE. (THIS SERIES OF BOOKS EVOLVED FROM THE AUTHOR'S LAB NOTEBOOKS.)
3. EXPERIMENT. FOR INSTANCE, SUBSTITUTE A LIGHT SENSOR FOR A THERMISTOR TO MEASURE LIGHT INSTEAD OF TEMPERATURE.
4. WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT A TOPIC? READ OTHER BOOKS IN THIS SERIES. VISIT A LIBRARY. READ ELECTRONICS MAGAZINES.

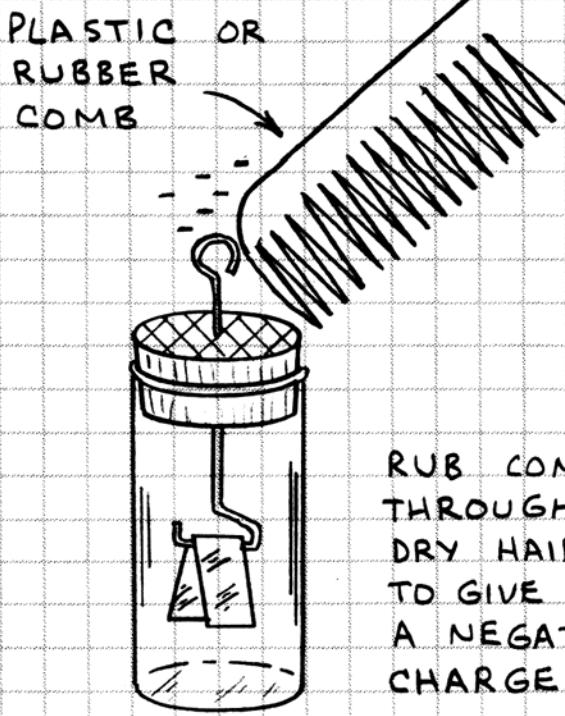
SPECIAL NOTE TO STUDENTS, PARENTS AND TEACHERS: MANY OF THE PROJECTS THAT FOLLOW CAN BE USED IN SCIENCE FAIR PROJECTS. FOR EXAMPLE, MEASURE BOTH TEMPERATURE AND SUNLIGHT ON CLEAR, PARTLY CLOUDY AND OVERCAST DAYS. GRAPH THE RESULTS. TEST THE INVERSE SQUARE LAW (PP.22-23) WITH VARIOUS LIGHT SOURCES. GRAPH THE RESULTS.

ELECTROSCOPE

THE ELECTROSCOPE IS A SIMPLE DEVICE THAT WILL DETECT AN ELECTROSTATIC CHARGE AND THE PRESENCE OF NUCLEAR RADIATION. YOU CAN ASSEMBLE AN ELECTROSCOPE FROM COMMON HOUSEHOLD MATERIALS. FOR EXAMPLE:



YOU CAN USE MANY DIFFERENT BOTTLES. THE BOTTLE MUST BE GLASS OR PLASTIC. THE STOPPER MUST BE CORK OR PLASTIC BUT NOT METAL. THE FOIL SHOULD BE THIN GAUGE ALUMINUM FOIL. THE AIR IN THE BOTTLE SHOULD BE AS DRY AS POSSIBLE.



NO CHARGE



MEDIUM CHARGE



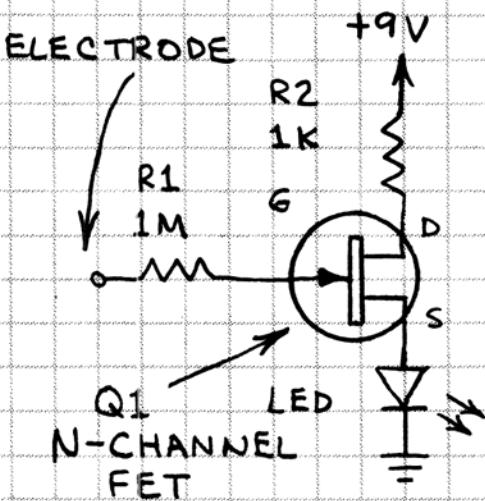
HIGH CHARGE

FOR BEST RESULTS THE FOIL LEAVES OF THE ELECTROSCOPE SHOULD BE FLAT. CUT THE FOIL WITH SHARP SCISSORS TO AVOID FRAYED EDGES. IF THE LEAVES DO NOT FLY APART WHEN A CHARGED OBJECT IS TOUCHED TO THE ELECTRODE, CHECK TO SEE IF THE LEAVES ARE STUCK TOGETHER. WORKS BEST WHEN AIR IS DRY. RADIATION WILL IONIZE THE AIR AND CAUSE LEAVES TO COLLAPSE.

ELECTRONIC ELECTROSCOPE

NORMALLY LED GLOWS.
RUB PLASTIC COMB OR
PEN THROUGH DRY HAIR
AND PLACE CHARGED
COMB OR PEN NEAR
ELECTRODE. LED WILL
BE EXTINGUISHED.

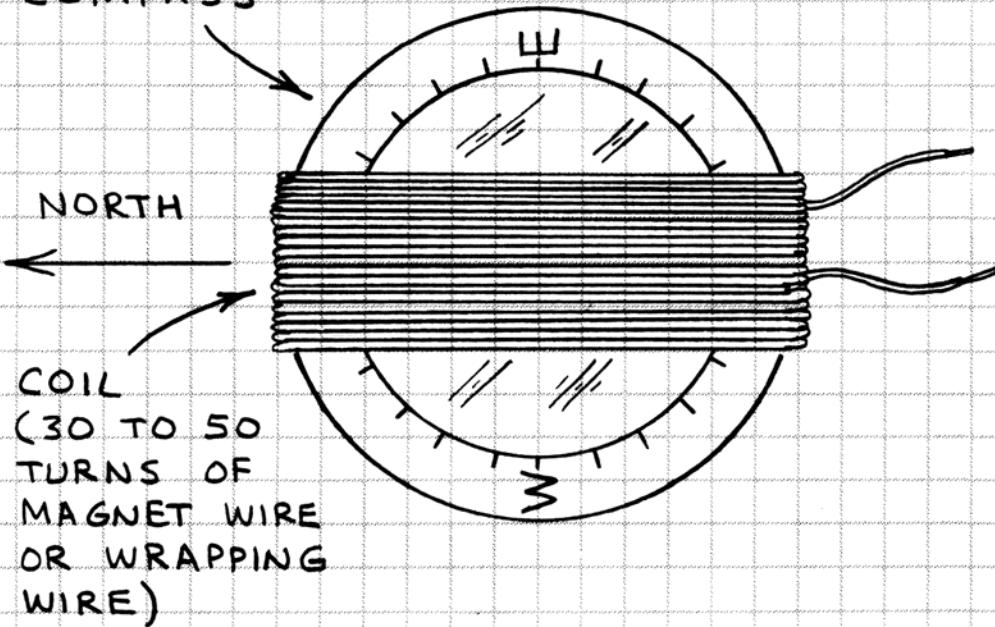
Q1 - USE 2N3819 OR
SIMILAR N-FET.



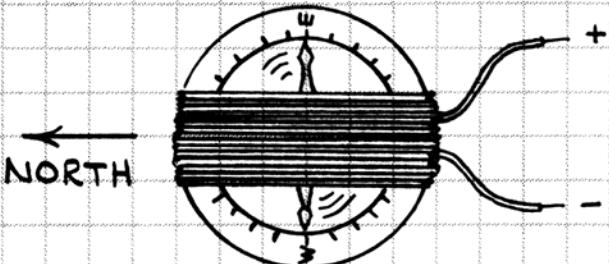
GALVANOMETER

THE GALVANOMETER MEASURES THE FLOW OF AN ELECTRICAL CURRENT. THE SIMPLEST GALVANOMETER IS MADE BY WRAPPING A WIRE COIL AROUND A COMPASS:

COMPASS

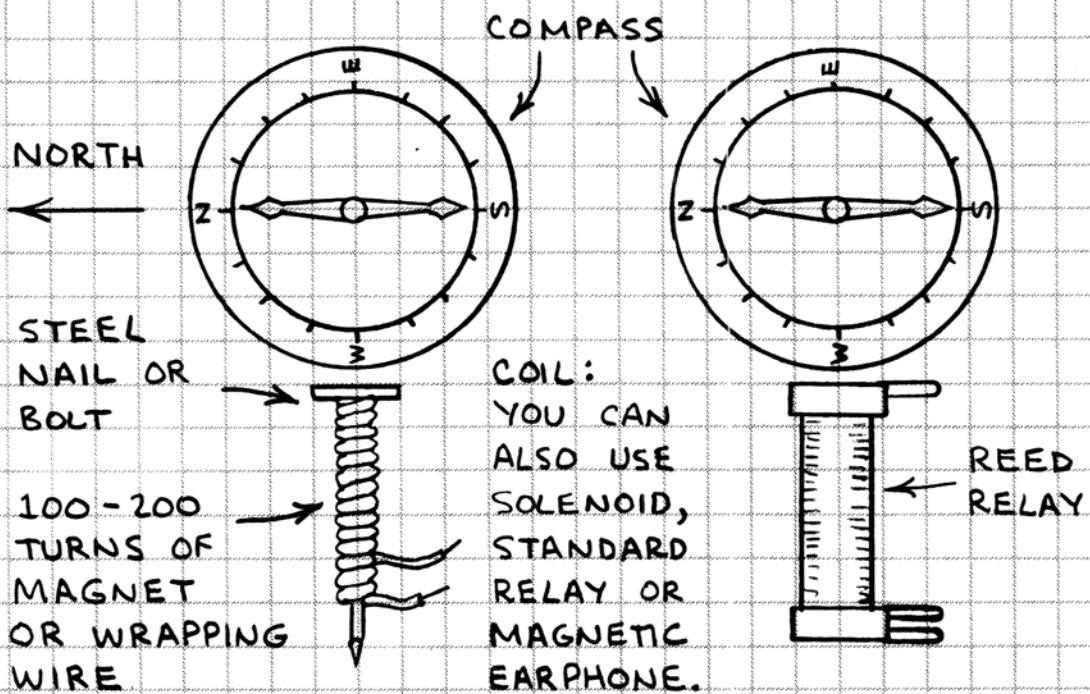


USE TAPE OR HOT MELT GLUE TO HOLD COIL IN PLACE. PLACE GALVANOMETER ON FLAT SURFACE. ALIGN SO THAT COIL AND COMPASS NEEDLE BOTH POINT NORTH. THEN TOUCH THE LEADS FROM THE COIL TO THE ENDS OF A 1.5 VOLT CELL. THE COMPASS NEEDLE WILL IMMEDIATELY SWING TO AN EAST - WEST ORIENTATION.

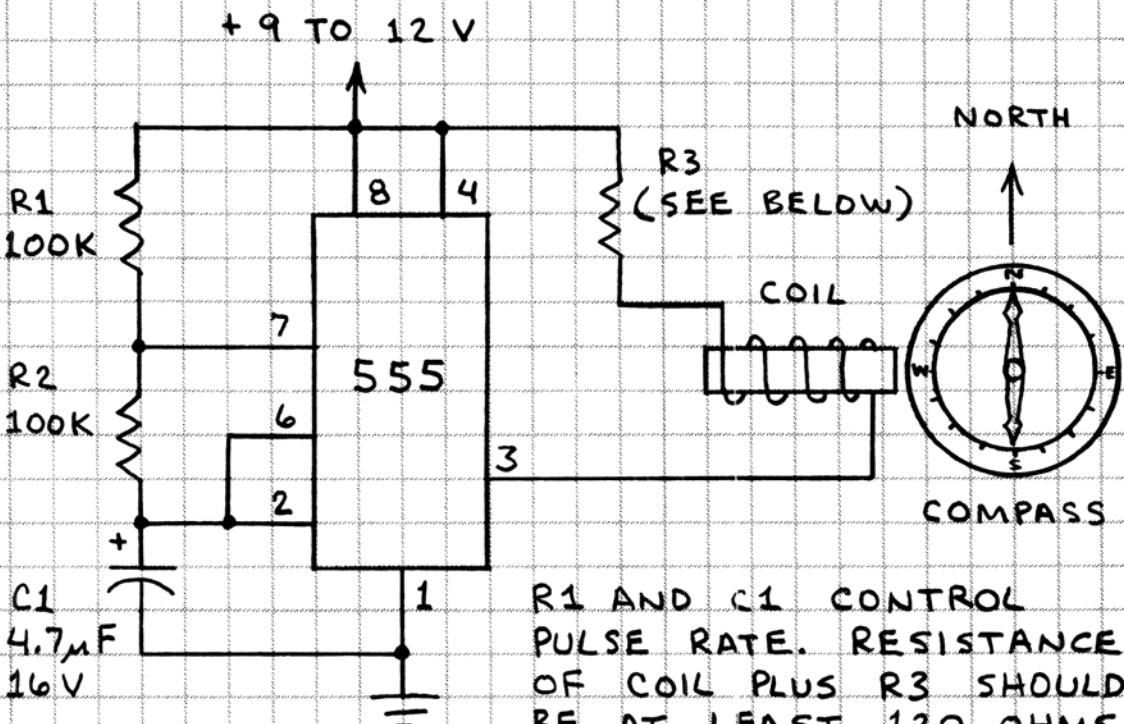


REVERSE POLARITY OF BATTERY TO REVERSE DIRECTION THE NEEDLE SWINGS. MOMENTARY USE WILL PREVENT EXCESS CURRENT DRAIN.

YOU CAN USE A COMPASS AND AN EXTERNAL COIL TO MAKE A GALVANOMETER.

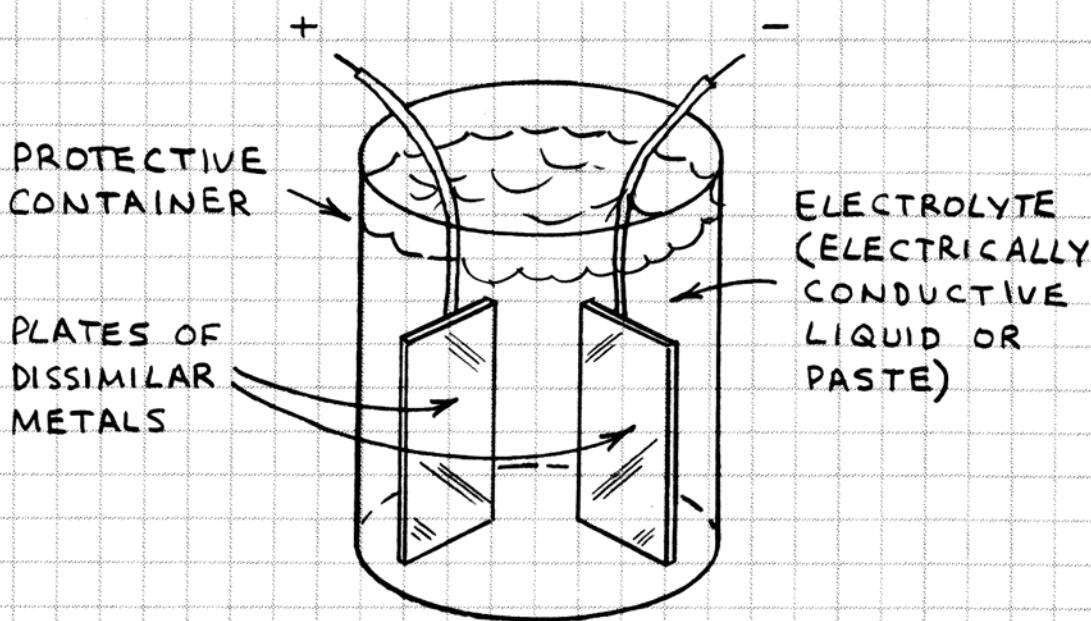


THE CIRCUIT BELOW WILL APPLY PULSES TO THE GALVANOMETER COIL THAT CAUSE THE COMPASS NEEDLE TO BOUNCE BACK AND FORTH LIKE A HORIZONTAL PENDULUM.

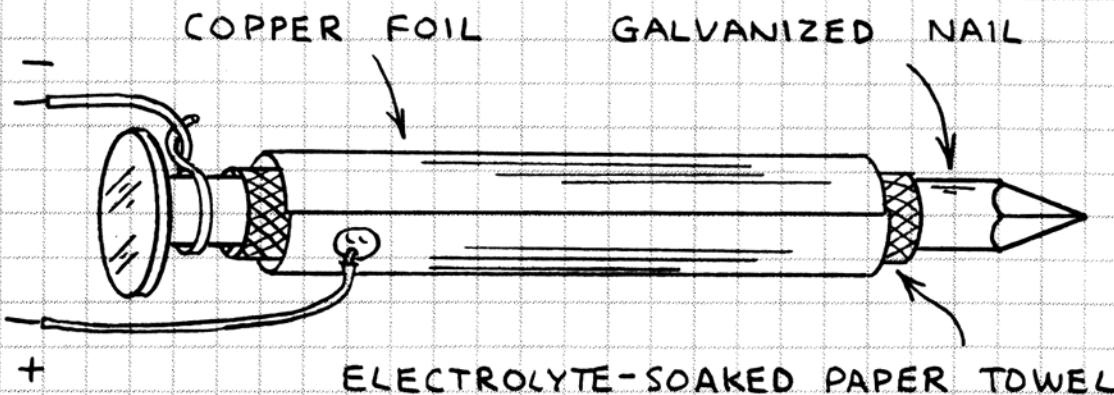


HOMEMADE BATTERIES

HOMEMADE POWER CELLS AND BATTERIES CAN BE USED TO OPERATE MANY KINDS OF LOW POWER CIRCUITS. A BASIC CELL INCLUDES THESE COMPONENTS:



THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO MAKE PRACTICAL POWER CELLS. HERE IS AN EXAMPLE:



ELECTROLYTE CAN BE TABLE SALT DISSOLVED IN WATER OR POWDERED CITRIC DRINK (MUST CONTAIN CITRIC ACID) DISSOLVED IN WATER. DIP TOWEL IN SOLUTION AND ALLOW TO DRY. ACTIVATE CELL WITH WATER. CLEAN AND REUSE ELECTRODES WHEN CELL STOPS WORKING.

VOLTAGES MEASURED WITH VARIOUS ELECTRODE METALS AND ELECTROLYTES:

<u>ELECTRODES</u>		<u>ELECTROLYTE</u>	
		<u>SALT</u>	<u>ACID*</u>
1. COPPER (+)	ZINC (-)	0.759	1.000
2. COPPER (-)	SILVER (+)	0.200	0.131
3. COPPER (+)	MAGNESIUM (-)	1.400	1.484
4. COPPER (+)	ALUMINUM (-)	0.570	0.720
5. ZINC (-)	SILVER (+)	0.720	0.820
6. ZINC (+)	MAGNESIUM (-)	0.622	0.546
7. ZINC (-)	ALUMINUM (+)	0.248	0.350
8. ALUMINUM (+)	MAGNESIUM (-)	0.778	0.820
9. ALUMINUM (-)	SILVER (+)	0.395	0.450
10. SILVER (+)	MAGNESIUM (-)	1.242	1.231

* POWDERED CITRIC DRINK IN WATER.

WHERE TO FIND ELECTRODE MATERIALS:

COPPER - COPPER FOIL FROM A HOBBY SHOP OR COPPER LAMINATED CIRCUIT BOARD.

ZINC - GALVANIZED METAL AND NAILS FROM A HARDWARE STORE.

ALUMINUM - HOUSEHOLD ALUMINUM FOIL OR THIN SHEET ALUMINUM FROM A HOBBY SHOP.

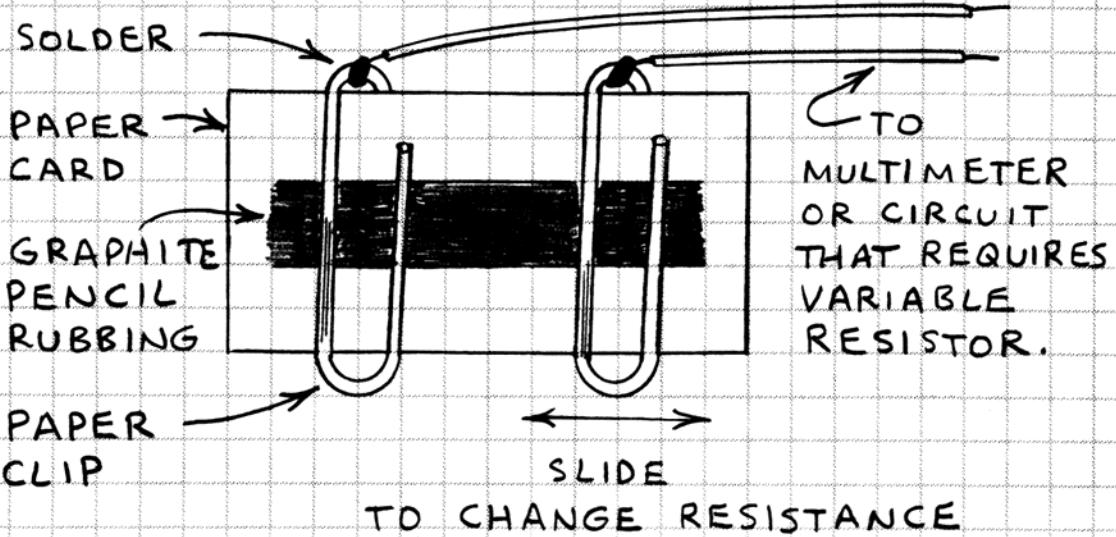
SILVER - SILVER COIN OR THIN SILVER SHEET FROM JEWELRY SUPPLY STORE.

MAGNESIUM - THIN MAGNESIUM RIBBON FROM CHEMICAL SUPPLY COMPANY OR HOBBY SHOP.

THE VOLTAGES GIVEN IN THE TABLE ABOVE WERE MEASURED WITH A DIGITAL VOLTMETER. IN MOST CASES THE VOLTAGE BEGAN TO DECLINE ALMOST IMMEDIATELY. IN SOME CASES THE VOLTAGE INCREASED TO TWICE ITS INITIAL VALUE AFTER 20 SECONDS OR SO. PEAK VALUES ARE GIVEN IN EACH CASE.

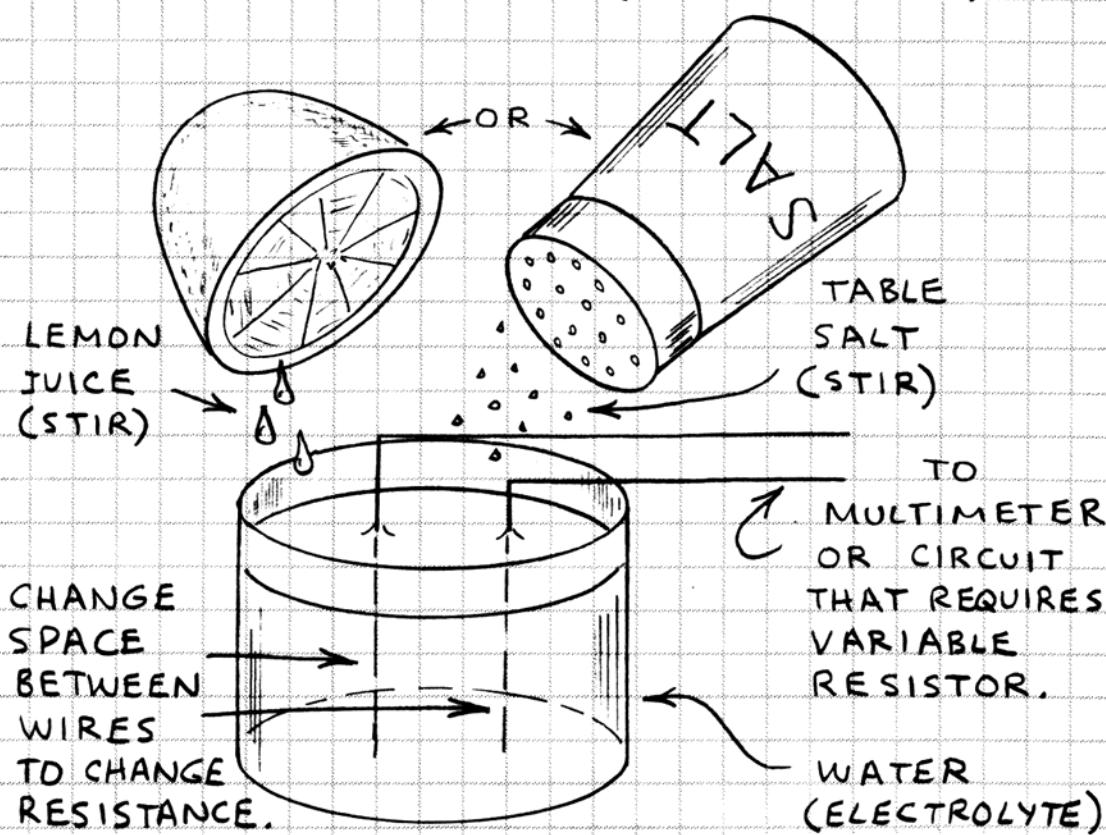
GRAPHITE RESISTOR

RESISTORS RESIST THE FLOW OF ELECTRICAL CURRENT. YOU CAN MAKE A RESISTOR BY STROKING A GRAPHITE PENCIL ON PAPER.



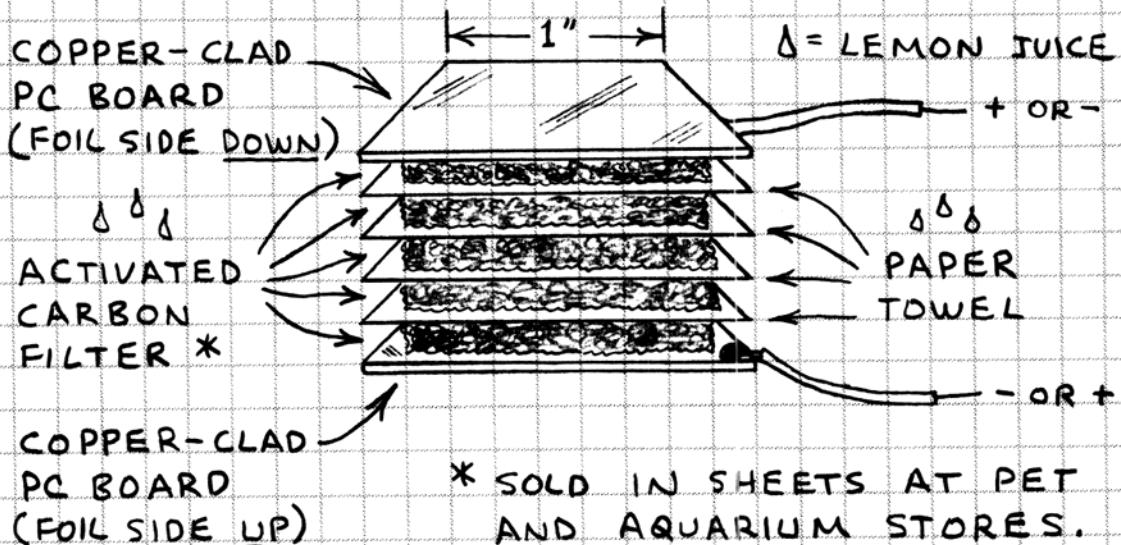
LIQUID RESISTOR

HERE'S HOW TO MAKE A RESISTOR FROM A CONDUCTIVE LIQUID (ELECTROLYTE):

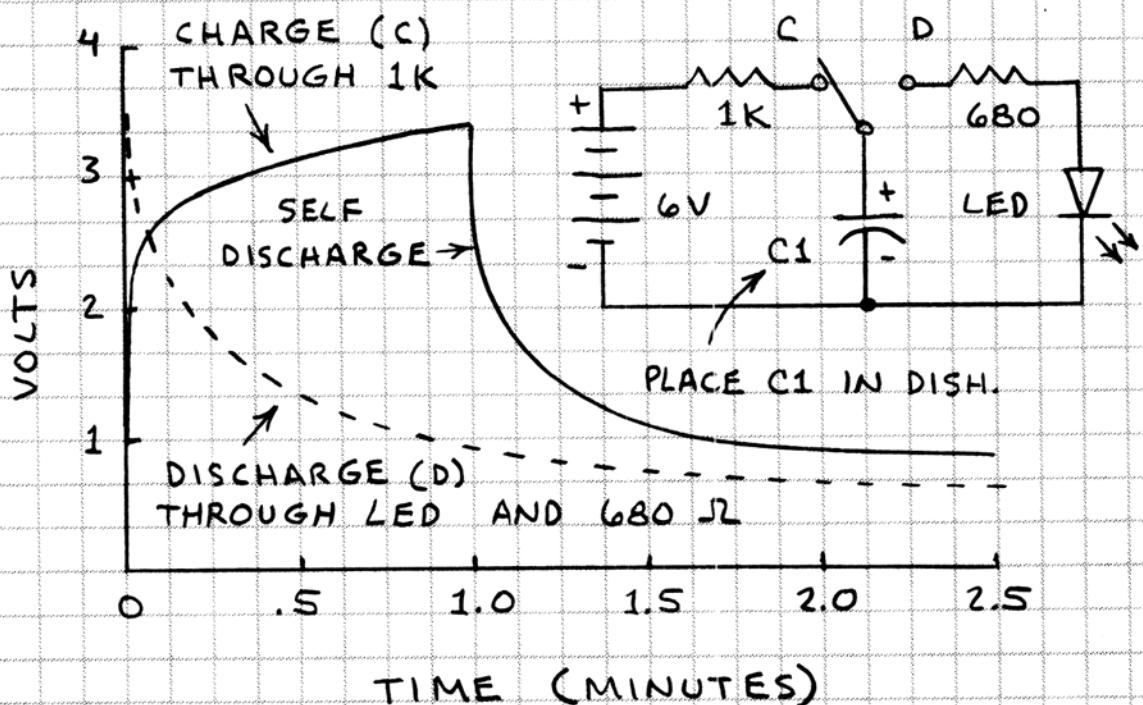


SUPER CAPACITOR

SUPER CAPACITORS STORE CONSIDERABLY MORE ENERGY THAN ORDINARY CAPACITORS. HERE'S HOW TO MAKE ONE:

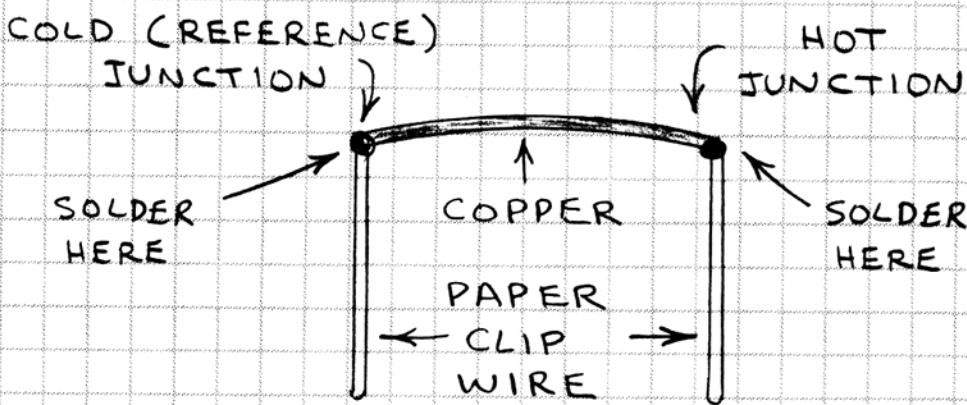


USE RUBBER BAND TO HOLD CAPACITOR TOGETHER. THEN SOAK CARBON FILTER AND PAPER TOWEL LAYERS IN LEMON JUICE (ELECTROLYTE). INCREASE AREA FOR MORE CAPACITY. ADD LAYERS TO INCREASE VOLTAGE (1.2 VOLTS PER LAYER). DO NOT APPLY MORE THAN 1.2 VOLTS PER LAYER OR THE ELECTROLYTE WILL DECOMPOSE.



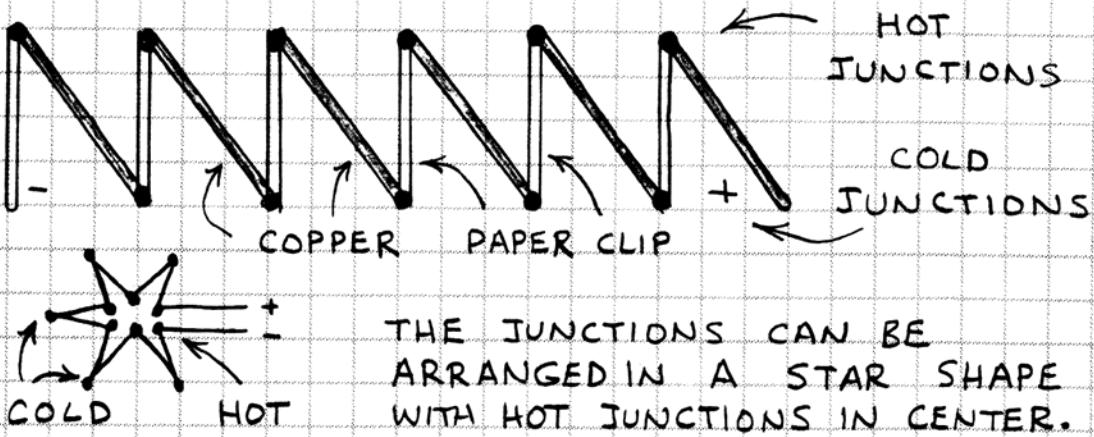
THERMOCOUPLE

A THERMOCOUPLE IS MADE BY CONNECTING A WIRE OF ONE METAL BETWEEN TWO WIRES OF A SECOND METAL. IF ONE OF THE TWO CONNECTIONS OR JUNCTIONS IS MADE WARMER THAN THE OTHER, THEN THE THERMOCOUPLE WILL GENERATE A SMALL VOLTAGE. SOME METALS AND ALLOYS WORK MUCH BETTER THAN OTHERS IN THERMOCOUPLES. YOU CAN MAKE A SIMPLE THERMOCOUPLE FROM A PAPER CLIP AND SOME COPPER WIRE:



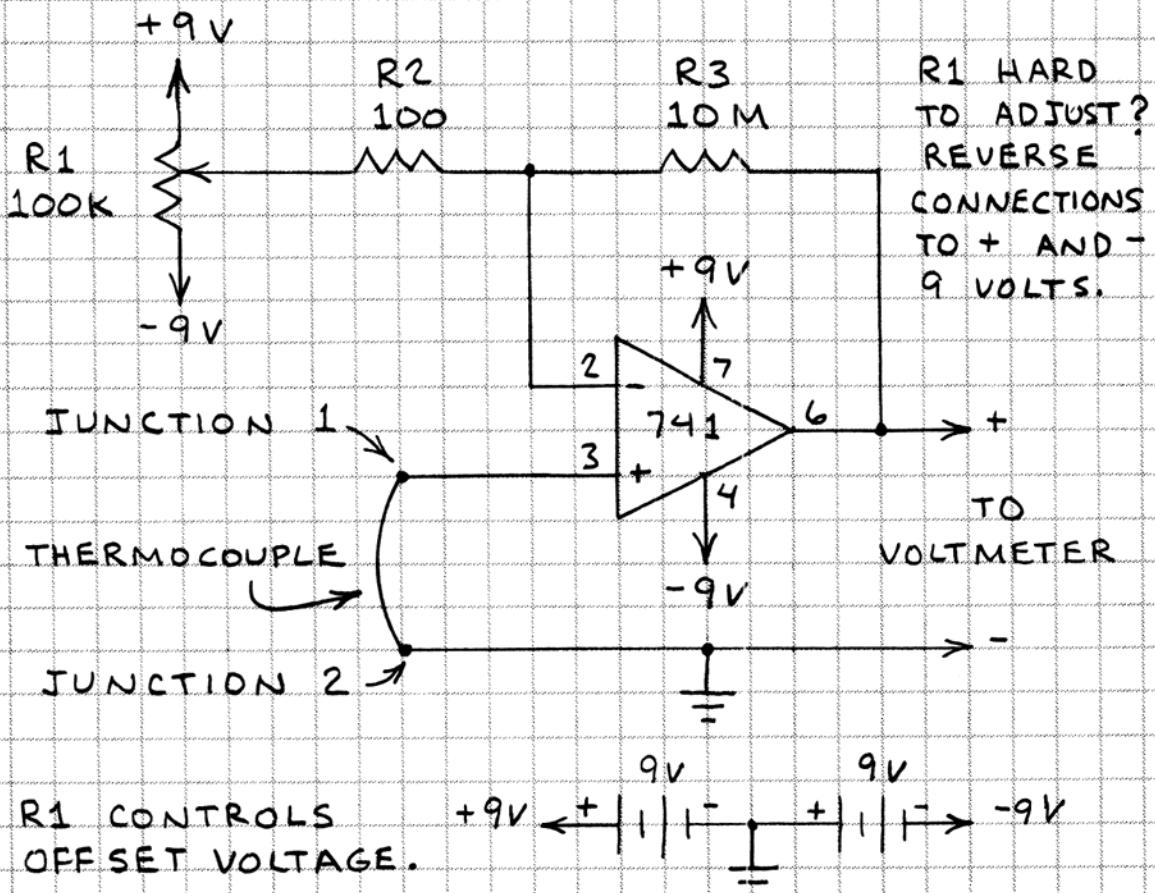
CONNECT THIS SIMPLE THERMOCOUPLE TO A DIGITAL MULTIMETER. IT WILL GENERATE UP TO A MILLIVOLT OR SO (0.001 VOLT) WHEN THE HOT JUNCTION IS HEATED BY A MATCH.

A THERMOPILE IS A SERIES OF MANY THERMOCOUPLES THAT GENERATES MORE VOLTAGE THAN A SINGLE THERMOCOUPLE:



THERMOCOUPLE AMPLIFIER

AN OPERATIONAL AMPLIFIER WILL AMPLIFY THE TINY VOLTAGE GENERATED BY A THERMOCOUPLE.



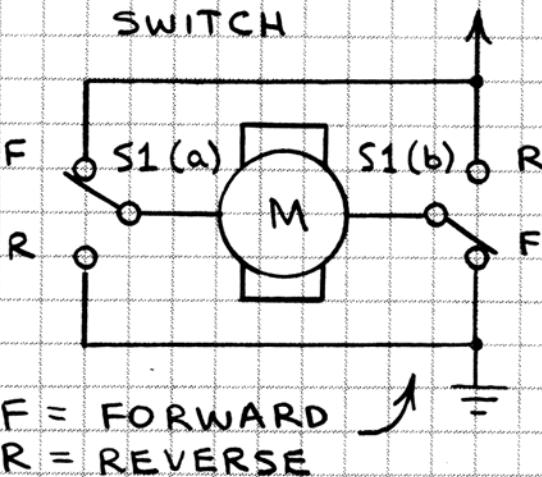
THE OUTPUT VOLTAGE FALLS WHEN JUNCTION 1 IS WARMER THAN JUNCTION 2. THE OUTPUT VOLTAGE RISES WHEN JUNCTION 2 IS WARMER THAN JUNCTION 1. FOR BEST RESULTS, USE ANALOG VOLTmeter FIRST. SET R1 FOR OUTPUT OF A FEW TENTHS OF A VOLT. THIS WILL LET YOU WATCH OUTPUT VOLTAGE SWING BACK AND FORTH, DEPENDING ON WHICH JUNCTION IS WARM. AFTER YOU LEARN TO ADJUST R1 (BE PATIENT) YOU CAN USE A DIGITAL VOLTmeter. NOTE THAT THE RISING OR FALLING VOLTAGE CAUSED BY HEATING ONE OF THE JUNCTIONS WILL SUDDENLY STOP AND BEGIN MOVING IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION. THIS HAPPENS WHEN THE HEAT IS CONDUCTED TO THE COOL JUNCTION.

SMALL D.C. MOTOR CIRCUITS

USE THESE SIMPLE CIRCUITS TO CONTROL DIRECTION OF ROTATION AND SPEED OF SMALL, LOW-POWER D.C. MOTORS.

MOTOR REVERSERS

S1: DPDT
SWITCH



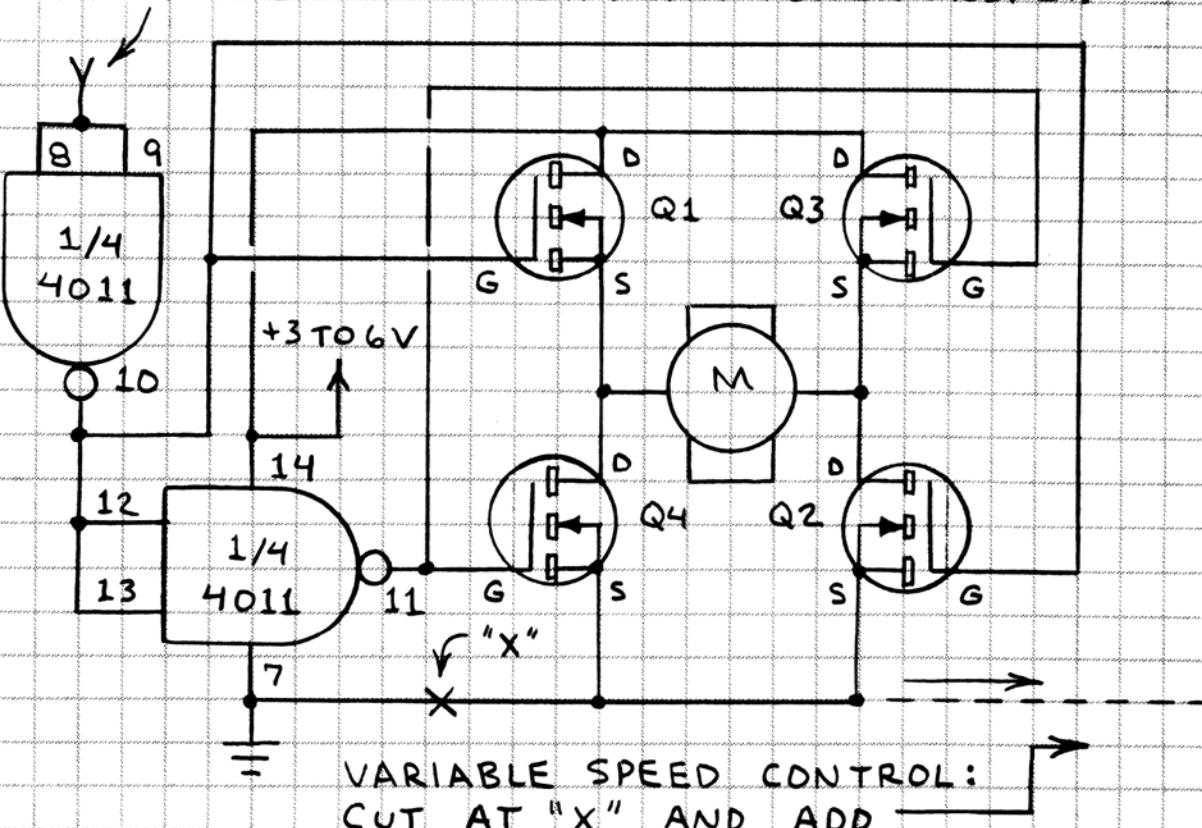
+3 TO 6V THESE CIRCUITS

CONTROL DIRECTION OF ROTATION OF A MOTOR MANUALLY OR WITH A LOGIC SIGNAL.

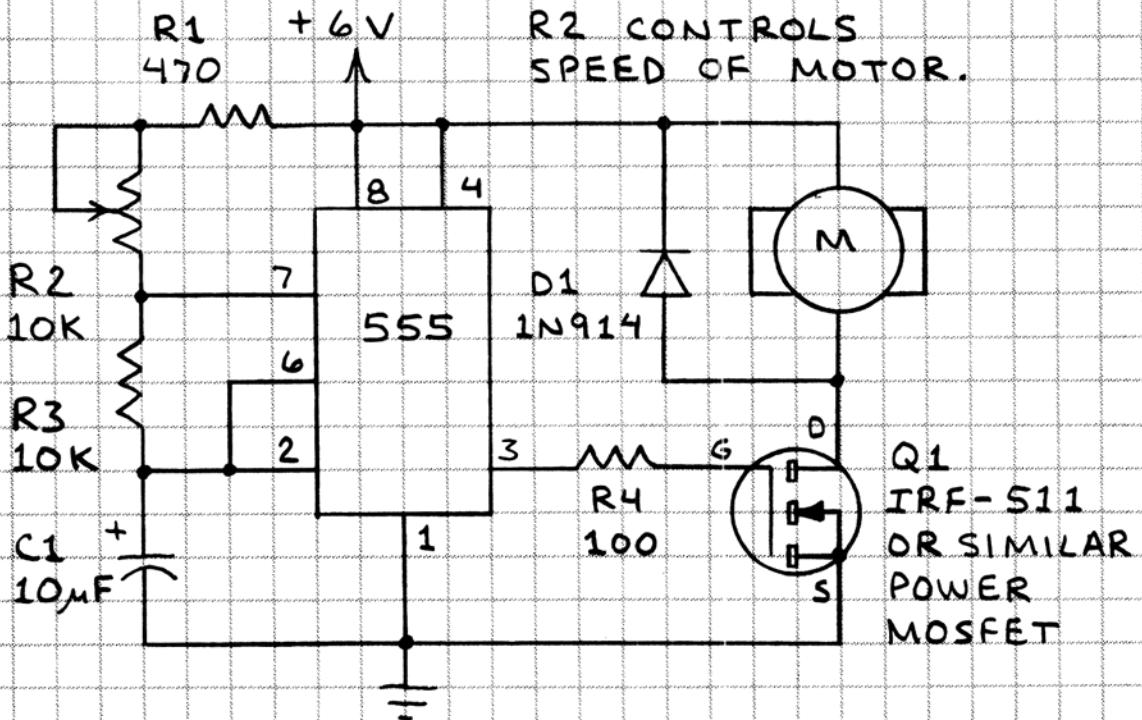
IMPORTANT:
MOTOR MUST NOT EXCEED POWER RATING OF POWER MOSFETS.

LOW = FORWARD
HIGH = REVERSE

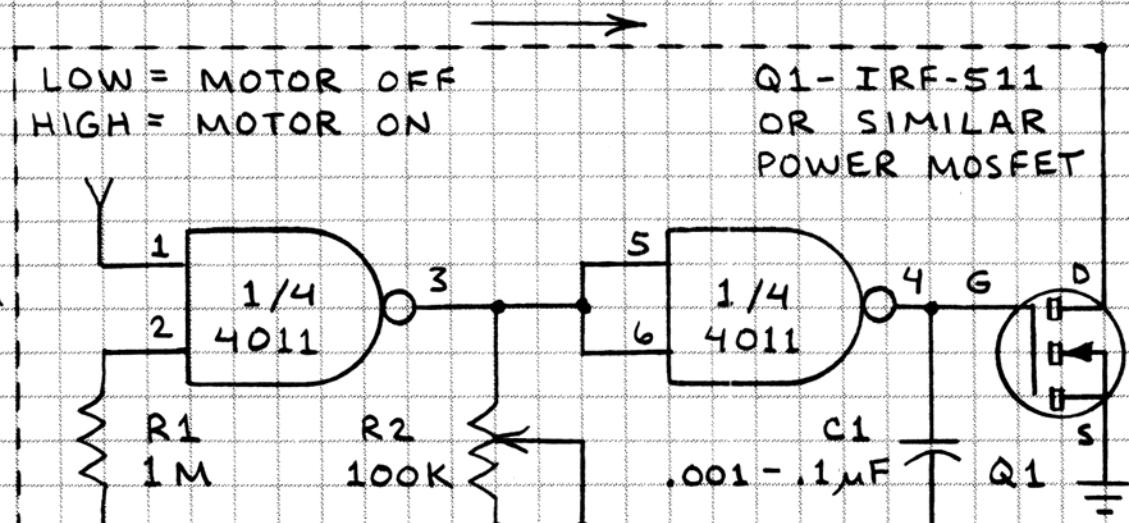
Q1 - Q4: IRF-511 OR SIMILAR POWER MOSFET.



MOTOR SPEED CONTROLLERS



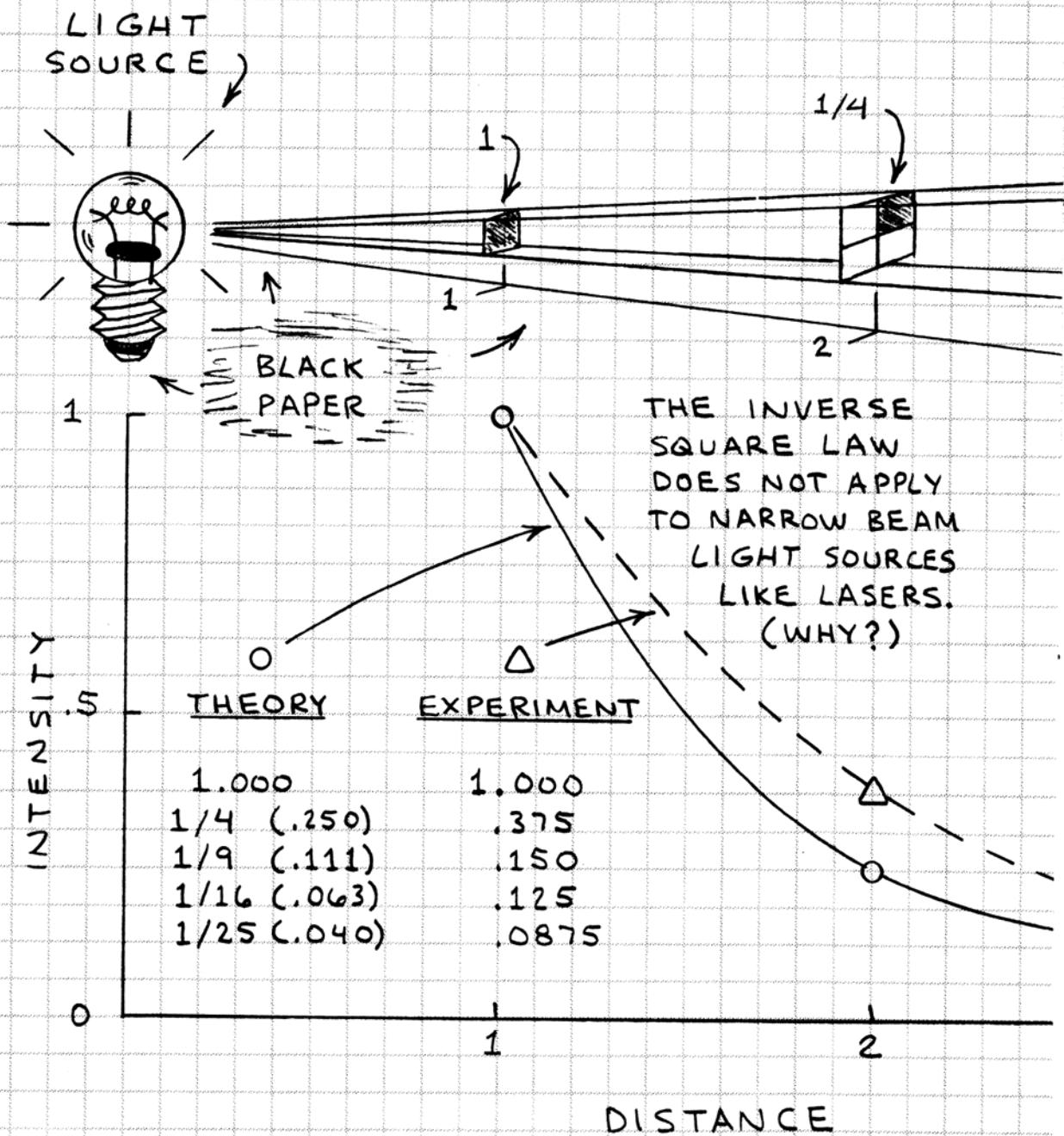
555 AND Q1 DELIVER STREAM OF PULSES TO MOTOR. INCREASING THE PULSE RATE INCREASES THE SPEED OF ROTATION. D1 PROTECTS 555 FROM MOTOR-GENERATED VOLTAGE SPIKES.



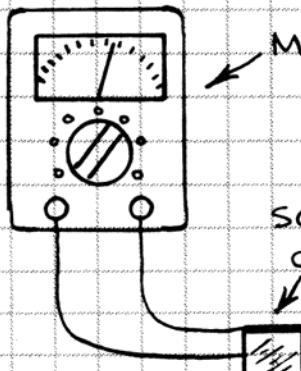
THIS CIRCUIT USES UNUSED 4011 GATES FROM CIRCUIT ON FACING PAGE TO GIVE VARIABLE SPEED AND DIRECTIONAL CONTROL TO MOTOR. R2 CONTROLS MOTOR'S SPEED. IF MOTOR FAILS TO TURN, READJUST R2.

INVERSE SQUARE LAW

SOUND WAVES SPREAD OUTWARD AS THEY TRAVEL AWAY FROM THEIR SOURCE. SO DO ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES SUCH AS LIGHT AND RADIO WAVES. THE INTENSITY OR STRENGTH OF SUCH WAVES IS INVERSELY PROPORTIONAL TO THE SQUARE OF THE DISTANCE OF THE WAVE FROM ITS SOURCE. IN OTHER WORDS, IF THE DISTANCE IS 3, THEN THE INTENSITY IS $1/9$ THE INTENSITY WHEN THE DISTANCE IS 1.



YOU CAN TEST THE INVERSE SQUARE LAW WITH THE HELP OF A SILICON SOLAR CELL AND A STANDARD MULTIMETER SET TO MEASURE CURRENT.



METER

SOLAR CELL

DO THIS EXPERIMENT WITH SUBDUED BACKGROUND LIGHT. PUT LIGHT SOURCE AND SOLAR CELL ON BLACK PAPER.

1/9

1/16

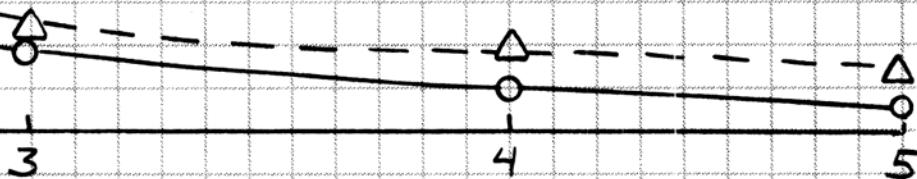
1/25

3

4

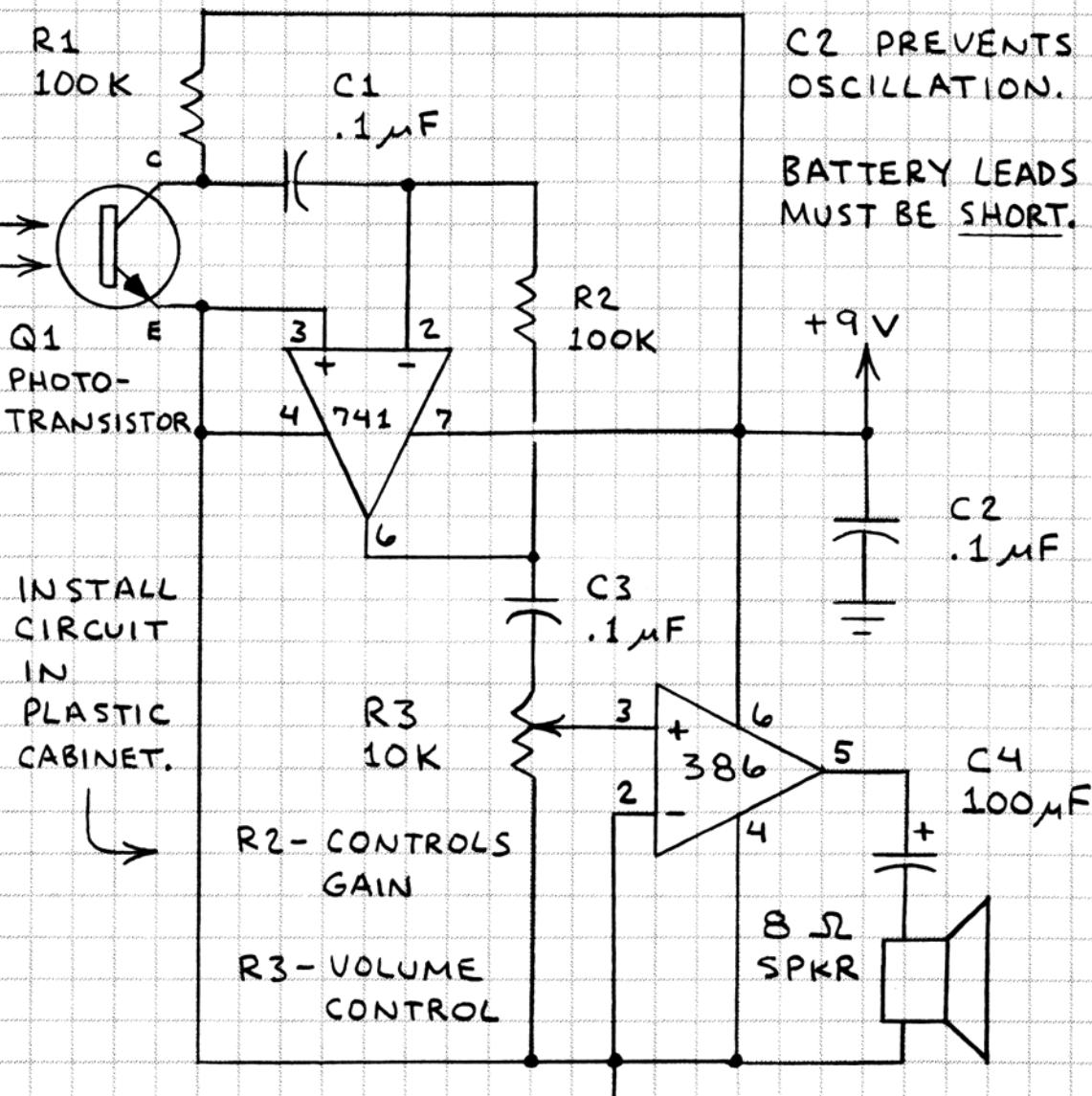
5

WHY DOES THE EXPERIMENTAL CURVE DIFFER SOMEWHAT FROM THE THEORETICAL CURVE? THE INVERSE SQUARE LAW ASSUMES THAT THE LIGHT SOURCE EMITS UNIFORMLY IN ALL DIRECTIONS. REAL LIGHT SOURCES DO NOT NECESSARILY OBEY THIS ASSUMPTION. FOR BEST RESULTS, THE DISTANCE TO THE FIRST MEASUREMENT POINT SHOULD BE AT LEAST 10 TO 20 TIMES THE SIZE OF THE SOURCE.

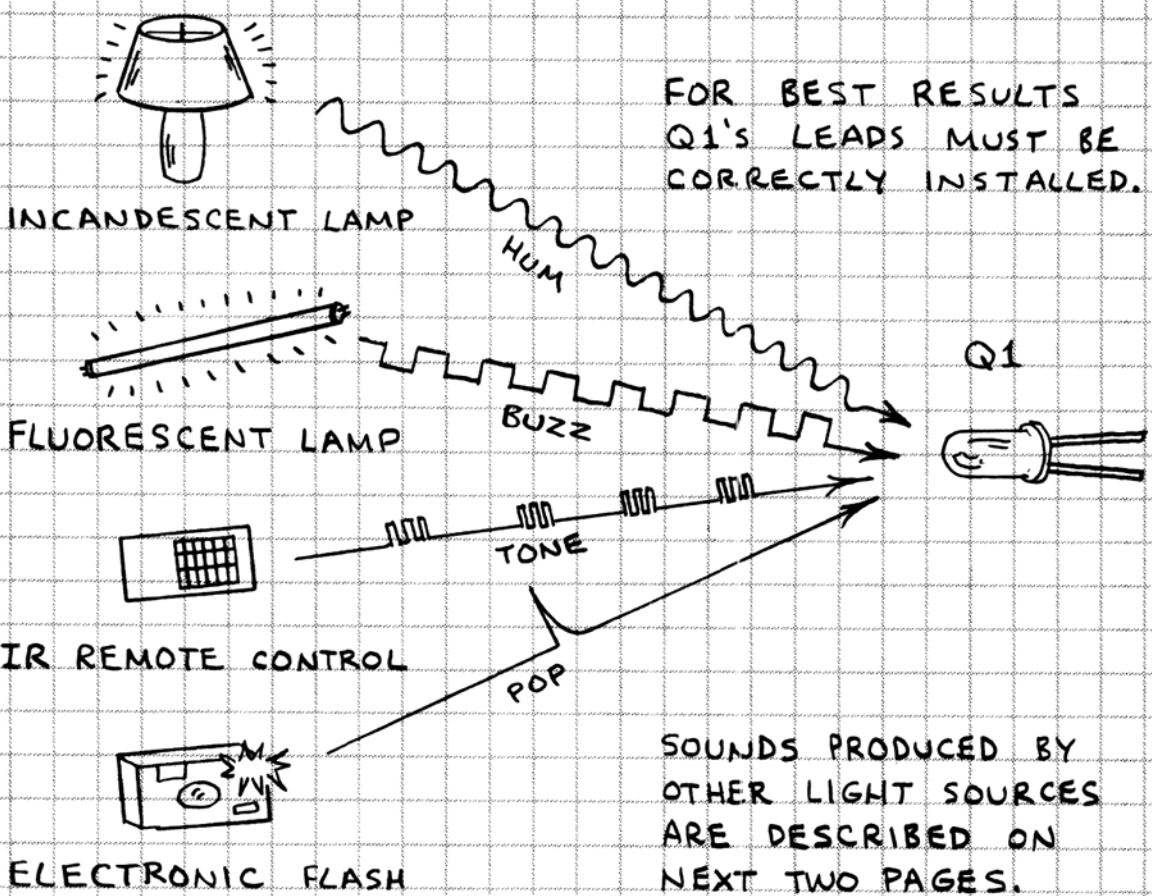


LIGHT LISTENER

THE HUMAN EYE HAS A PERSISTENCE OF VISION OF ABOUT 0.02 SECOND. THEREFORE A LIGHT THAT FLASHES ON AND OFF MORE THAN ABOUT 50 Hz APPEARS CONTINUOUSLY ON. THE HUMAN EAR IS MUCH FASTER AND CAN RESPOND TO SOUND WITH A FREQUENCY UP TO ABOUT 20,000 Hz. THE LIGHT LISTENER TRANSFORMS THE PULSATING AND FLICKERING OF LIGHT THAT THE EYE CANNOT DISCERN INTO SOUNDS THE EAR CAN EASILY HEAR.



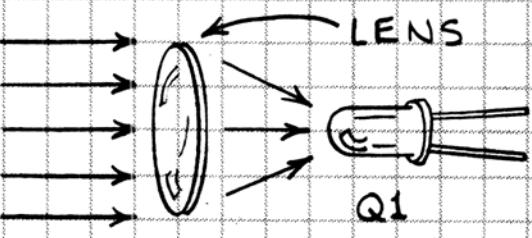
TEST THE LIGHT LISTENER BY POINTING Q1 TOWARD AN ARTIFICIAL LIGHT SOURCE. A LINE-POWERED INCANDESCENT LAMP WILL PRODUCE A HUMMING SOUND. A FLUORESCENT LAMP WILL PRODUCE A LOUD BUZZ. AN INFRARED TV REMOTE CONTROL UNIT WILL PRODUCE A PULSING TONE. A CAMERA FLASH UNIT WILL PRODUCE A POP.



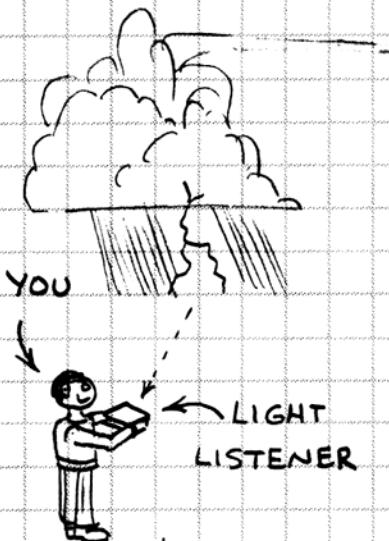
PHOTOTRANSISTOR Q1 CAN BE REPLACED BY A SOLAR CELL. CONNECT CELL'S PLUS (+) LEAD TO C1 AND MINUS (-) LEAD TO GROUND (⏚). OMIT R1.

"INSTANT" LIGHT LISTENER — CONNECT SOLAR CELL TO MICROPHONE INPUT OF BATTERY POWERED AUDIO AMPLIFIER.

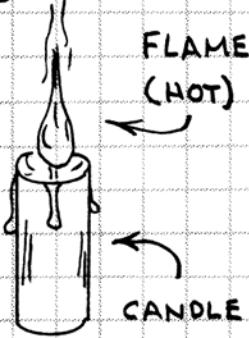
USE MAGNIFYING LENS
TO INCREASE LIGHT
LISTENER'S DETECTION
RANGE.



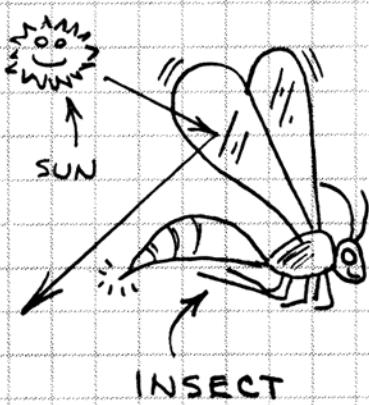
LISTENING TO NATURAL LIGHT



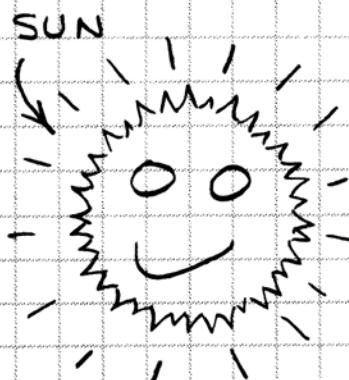
LIGHTNING FLASHES PRODUCE SHARP CLICKS AND POPS. WORKS BEST AT NIGHT. SYSTEM WILL DETECT SOME LIGHTNING MISSED BY EYE. CAUTION: DETECT LIGHTNING WHILE INDOORS OR IN CAR! DISTANCE IN FEET TO LIGHTNING IS 1080 TIMES SECONDS BETWEEN FLASH AND THUNDER.



FLAMES PRODUCE VARIOUS SOUNDS. WHEN THE AIR IS STILL, A SOFT RUSHING SOUND IS HEARD. WHEN THE FLAME IS DISTURBED BY MOVING AIR, CRACKLES AND POPS ARE HEARD.



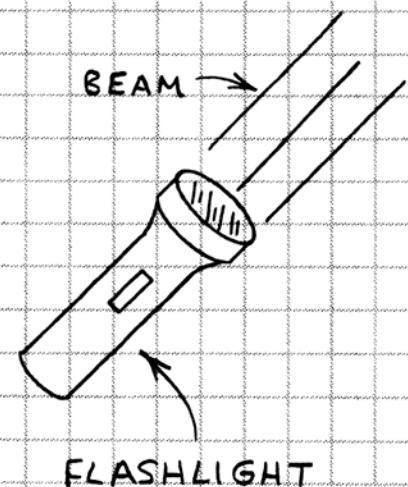
POINT THE LIGHT LISTENER'S DETECTOR AT INSECTS FLYING IN SUNLIGHT. WHEN THEIR WINGS REFLECT LIGHT TO THE DETECTOR, A BUZZ OR HUM WILL BE HEARD. AT DUSK A NEARBY FIREFLY WILL PRODUCE A SOFT CLICK FOR EACH FLASH.



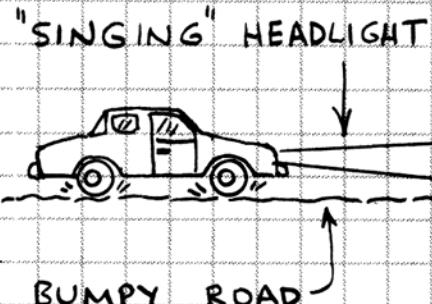
WALK OUTDOORS ON ANY SUNNY DAY. SUNLIGHT FILTERING THROUGH LEAVES PRODUCES VARIOUS SOUNDS. SO DO REFLECTIONS FROM WINDOWS. SUNLIGHT THROUGH A PICKET FENCE PRODUCES A "POP...POP...POP...."

LISTENING TO ARTIFICIAL LIGHT

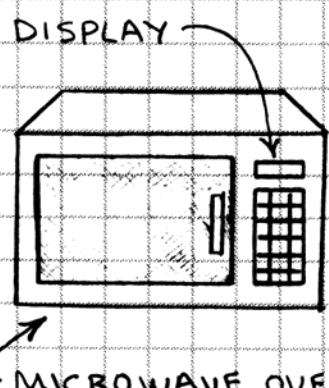
SWEEP THE BEAM FROM A FLASHLIGHT ACROSS THE LIGHT LISTENER'S DETECTOR. SLOW SWEEPS PRODUCE A SOFT SWISHING SOUND. FAST SWEEPS GIVE POPS. TAP THE FLASHLIGHT WITH A PENCIL AND A RINGING SOUND WILL BE HEARD AS THE FILAMENT VIBRATES.



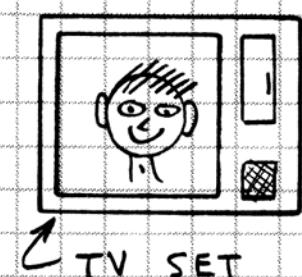
THE HEADLIGHTS OF CARS, TRUCKS AND MOTOR-CYCLES WILL PRODUCE A DISTINCTIVE RINGING SOUND WHEN THE VEHICLE IS MOVING ON A ROUGH OR BUMPY ROAD.



ELECTRONIC DISPLAYS ARE USUALLY POWERED BY RAPID PULSES OF CURRENT. THE FLASHES ARE MERGED INTO CONTINUOUS LIGHT BY THE SLOW RESPONSE OF THE EYE. BUT THEY CAN BE HEARD AS A BUZZ OR HUM WITH A LIGHT LISTENER.



THE DISPLAYS OF TELEVISION SETS AND COMPUTER MONITORS ARE FORMED BY SWEEPING AN ELECTRON BEAM ACROSS A PHOSPHOR COATED SCREEN. THE LIGHT LISTENER TRANSFORMS THE PULSATING PHOSPHOR TO A BUZZ.

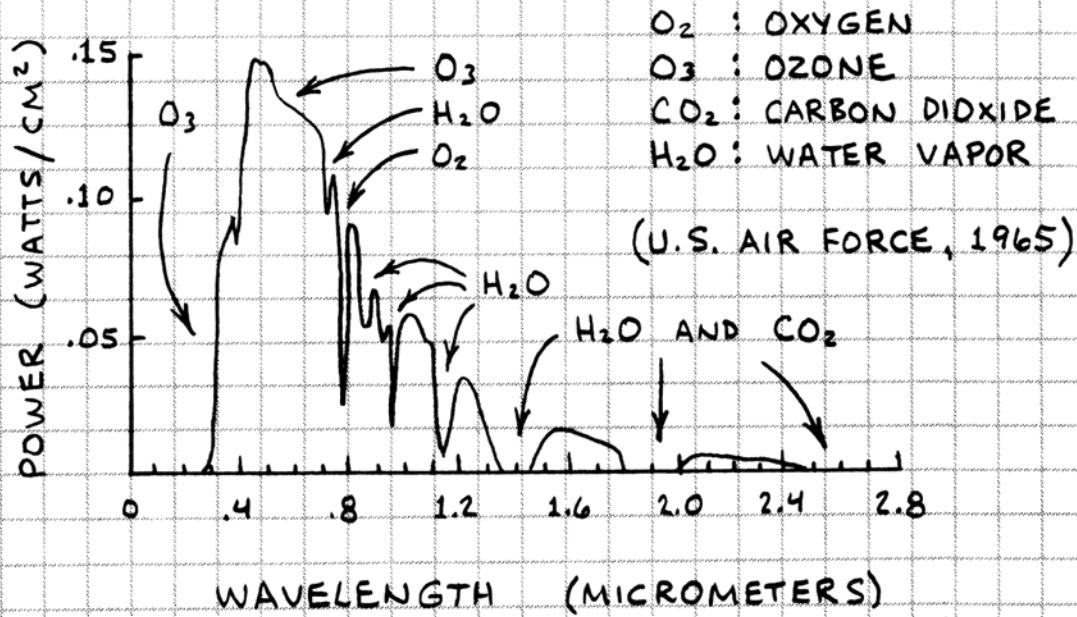


MONITORING SUNLIGHT

MUCH CAN BE LEARNED ABOUT THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE BY MONITORING SUNLIGHT.

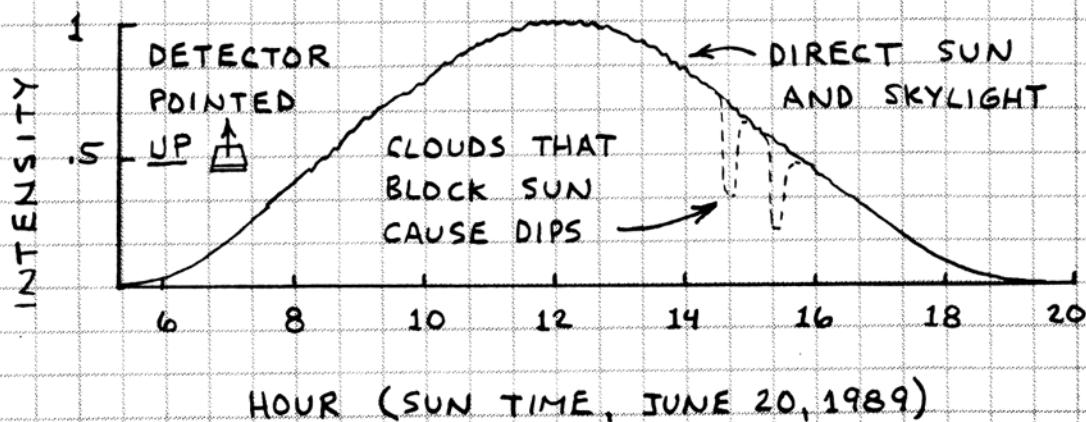
THE SOLAR SPECTRUM

CERTAIN GASES ABSORB SPECIFIC WAVELENGTHS OF SUNLIGHT.



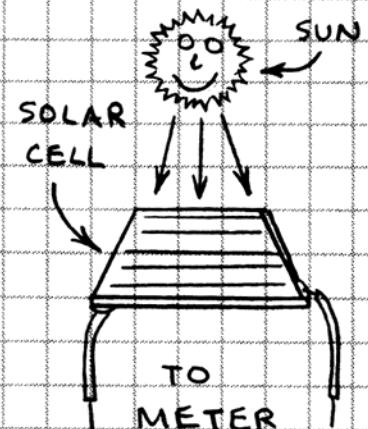
THE SOLAR DAY

THE SOLAR POWER AT THE EARTH'S SURFACE IS INFLUENCED BY THE ATMOSPHERE (CLOUDS, DUST, SMOG, ETC.) AND THE SUN'S ANGLE (TIME OF DAY AND SEASON). HERE'S THE SOLAR POWER FOR A CLEAR SUMMER DAY IN CENTRAL TEXAS:

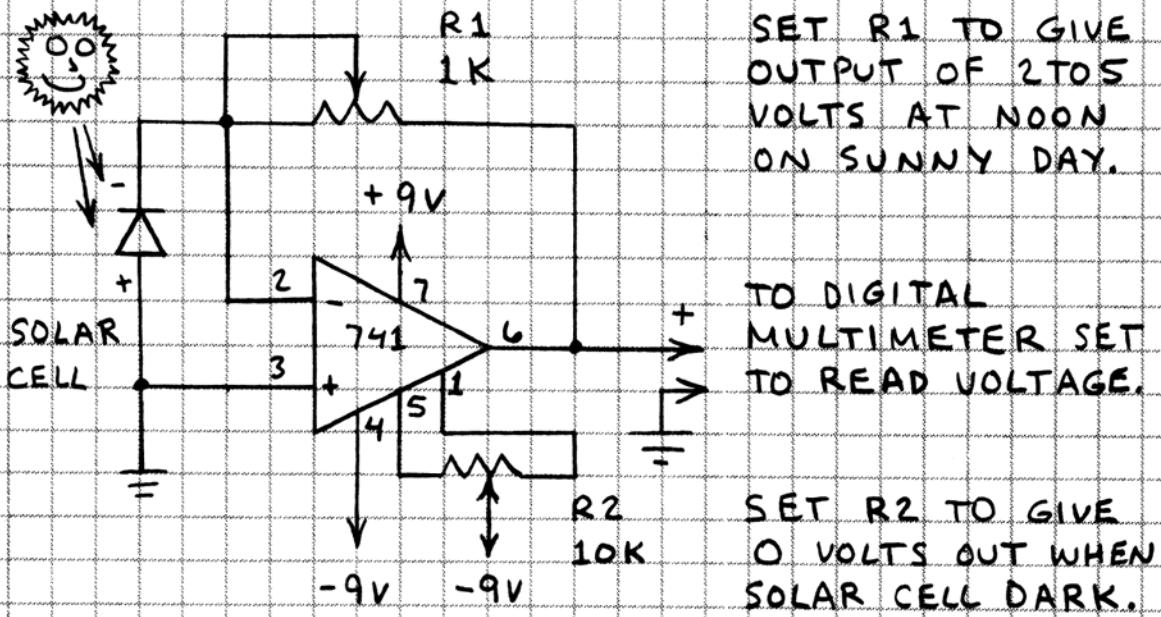


SIMPLE SOLAR POWER METER

YOU CAN MAKE A SOLAR POWER METER WITH A SOLAR CELL AND A MULTIMETER SET TO READ CURRENT. THE CURRENT FROM THE CELL WILL REPRESENT THE SUNLIGHT'S INTENSITY OVER THE SOLAR CELL'S SPECTRAL RESPONSE. USE DIGITAL MULTIMETER FOR ACCURATE READINGS.



OP AMP SOLAR POWER METER

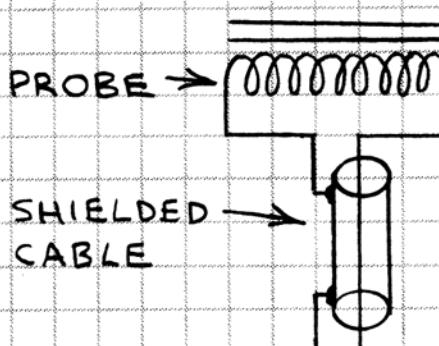


SOLAR MONITORING EXPERIMENTS

1. RECORD SOLAR POWER EVERY HALF HOUR FOR A DAY. MAKE A GRAPH OF YOUR MEASUREMENTS.
2. STUDY EFFECT OF VARIOUS CLOUDS ON SUNLIGHT.
3. STUDY EFFECT OF SMOG ON SUNLIGHT.
4. RECORD SUNLIGHT AT NOON EACH DAY FOR A YEAR. GRAPH YOUR MEASUREMENTS.

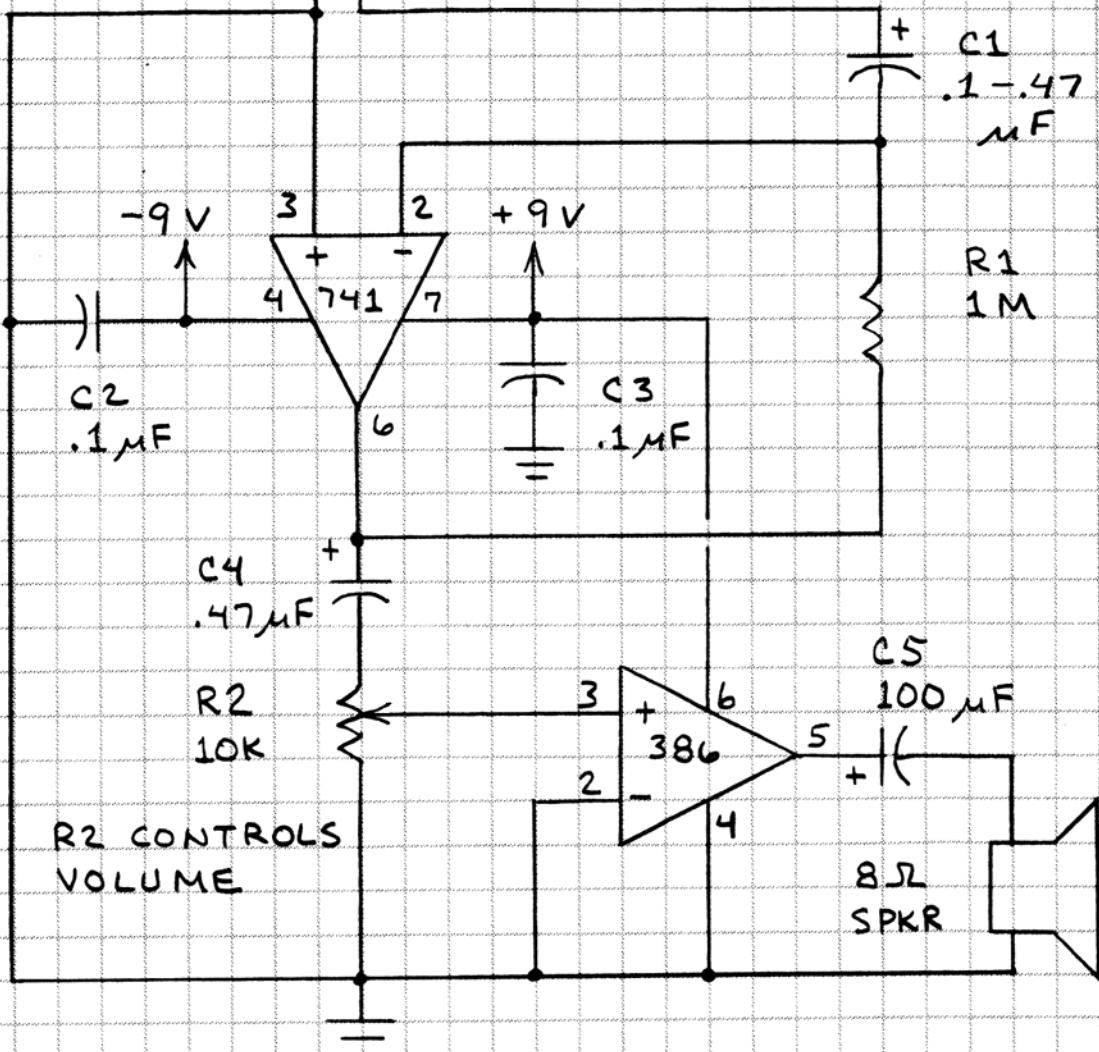
ELECTROMAGNETIC PROBE

ELECTRONIC CIRCUITS THAT OSCILLATE OR SWITCH CURRENT CREATE ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS. THIS CIRCUIT CHANGES A PULSING OR OSCILLATING ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD INTO SOUND.



PROBE: TELEPHONE
PICKUP COIL.

KEEP BATTERY LEADS
SHORT TO AVOID
OSCILLATION.

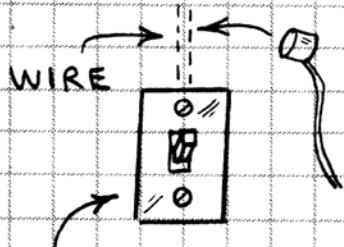


CAUTION: THIS CIRCUIT CAN PRODUCE VERY
LOUD SOUNDS. DO NOT USE EARPHONE OR
PLACE SPEAKER CLOSE TO YOUR EARS!

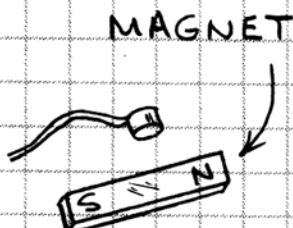
USING THE PROBE



HANDSET



LIGHT SWITCH



MAGNET

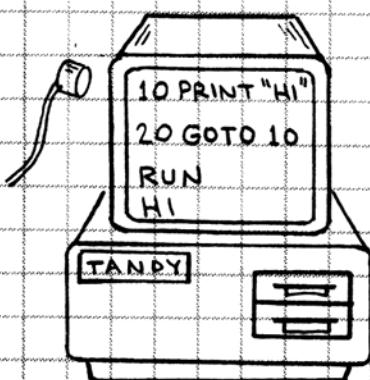
TEST THE PROBE BY PLACING PICKUP COIL NEAR RECEIVER OF TELEPHONE HANDSET. YOU SHOULD HEAR A DIAL TONE WHEN HANDSET IS "OFF THE HOOK."

USE PROBE TO FIND WIRES CARRYING ALTERNATING CURRENT. YOU CAN FIND WIRES INSIDE WALLS WHEN CURRENT IS FLOWING. TURN SWITCH ON AND HEAR A "POP."

RUB MAGNET AGAINST PICKUP COIL. YOU WILL HEAR RUSHING SOUNDS. IF AMPLIFIER SQUEALS, REDUCE VOLUME (R2). YOU CAN ALSO REDUCE GAIN OF 741 BY REDUCING RESISTANCE OF R1.



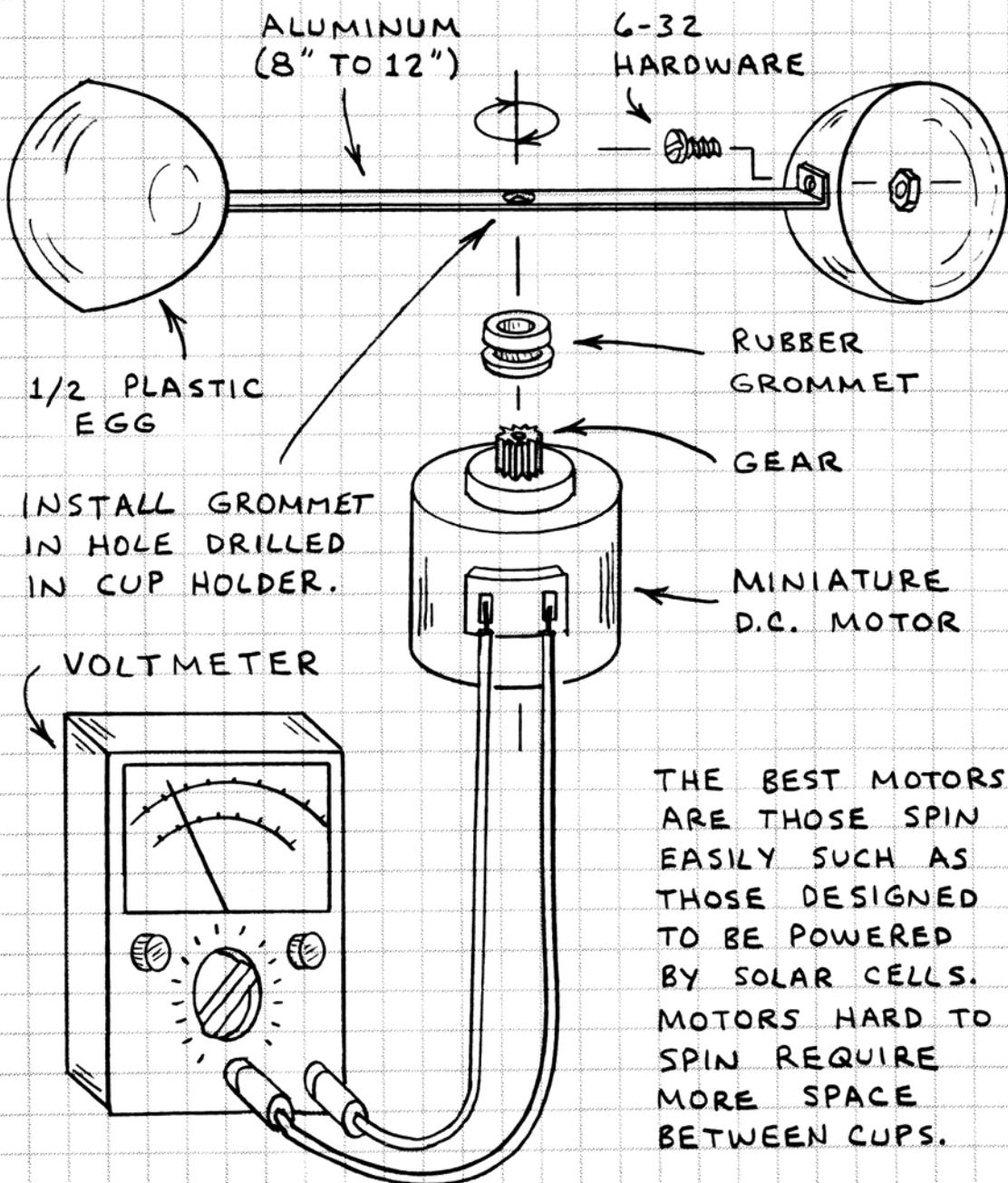
NEARBY LIGHTNING FLASHES WILL PRODUCE CRACKLES AND POPS. SPARKS AT BRUSHES OF DIRECT CURRENT MOTORS WILL PRODUCE A BUZZ OR WHINE.



MANY ELECTRONIC APPLIANCES GENERATE ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS. TRY PLACING THE PICKUP COIL NEAR COMPUTERS, RADIOS, TELEVISION SETS, FLUORESCENT LIGHTS, RADIO CONTROL TRANSMITTERS, AND INFRARED REMOTE CONTROLLERS.

WIND SPEED INDICATOR

A SMALL D.C. MOTOR WILL GENERATE A VOLTAGE WHEN ITS ARMATURE IS SPUN. THIS PRINCIPLE CAN BE USED TO MAKE A SIMPLE WIND SPEED INDICATOR. THE MOST DIFFICULT ASPECT OF MAKING SUCH AN INSTRUMENT IS MOUNTING AIR COLLECTION CUPS TO THE MOTOR'S SHAFT. THE BEST METHOD IS TO WELD THE CUP HOLDER TO THE SHAFT. HERE IS ONE WAY TO ATTACH AIR CUPS TO A MOTOR FOR TEMPORARY USE:



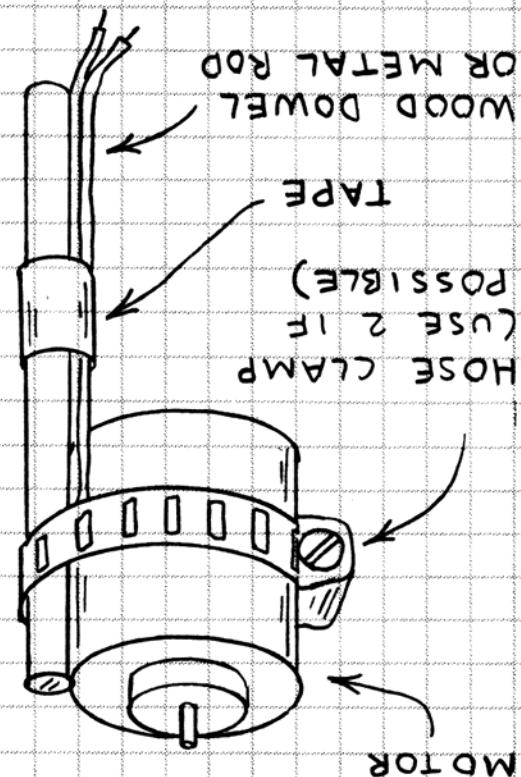
1. NEVER HOLD THE UNIT AT EYE LEVEL WHEN THE CUPS ARE SPINNING!

2. DO NOT INSTALL THE UNIT NEAR A POWER LINE!

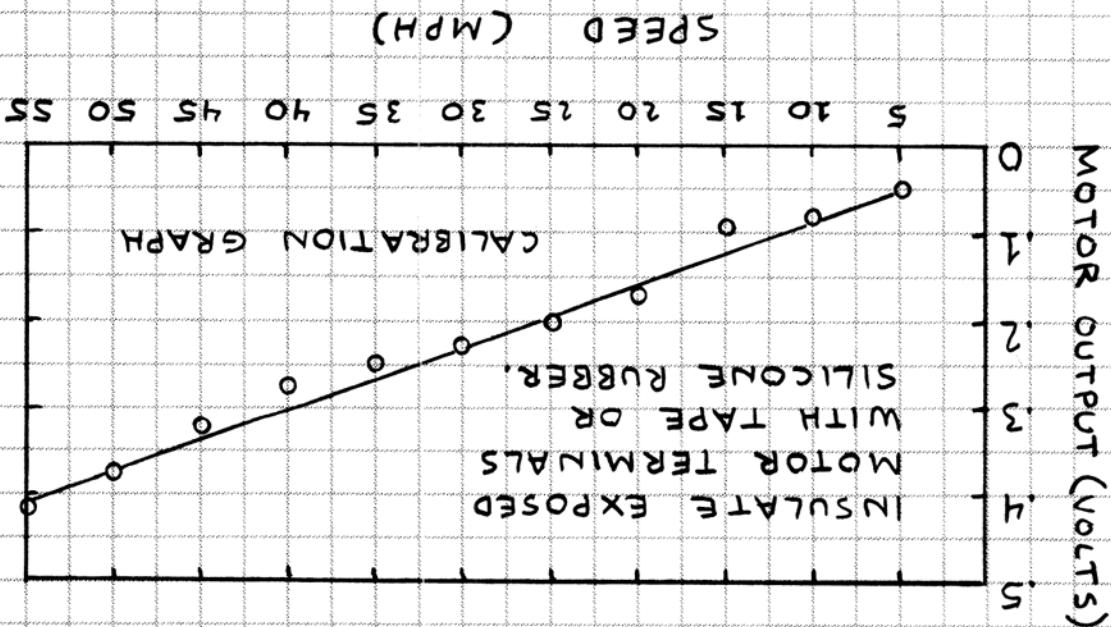
3. USE GREAT CARE WHEN CALIBRATING THE UNIT FROM A MOVING CAR!

4. USE 2 IF POSSIBLE (USE 1 IF HOUSE CLAMP)

5. USE METAL ROD WOOD DOVEL



MAST INSTALLATION



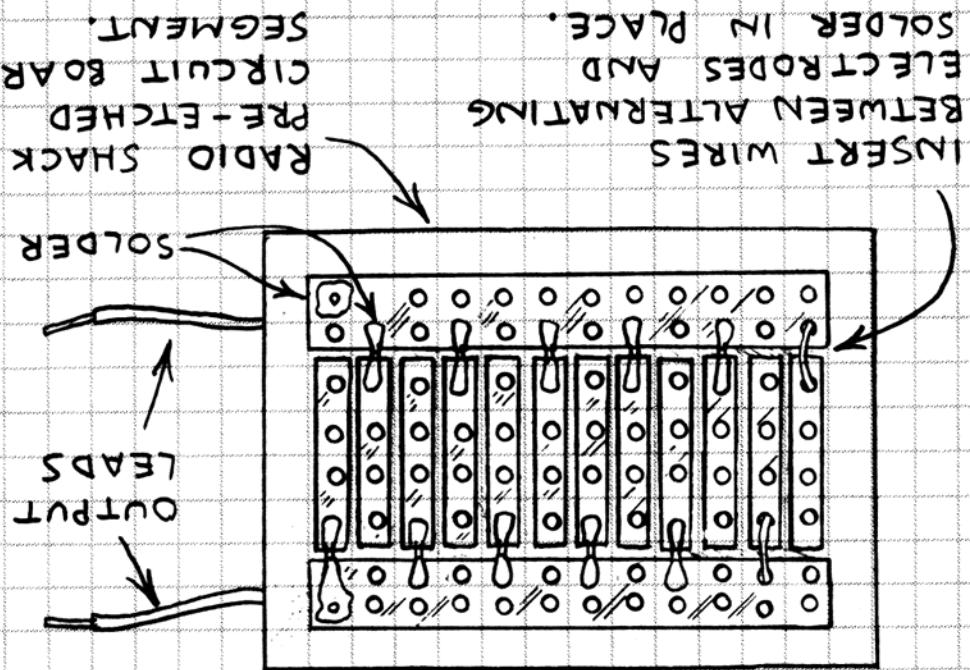
MAKE A CALIBRATION GRAPH LIKE THIS:

COMMERICAL ANEMOMETER OR HAVE A FRIEND DRIVE YOU DOWN A COUNTRY ROAD WHILE YOU HOLD THE MAST-MOUNTED UNIT (SEE BELOW)

OUT A PASSENGER-SIDE WINDOW. RECORD THE MOTOR'S VOLTAGE AT VARIOUS SPEEDS AND USE A CALIBRATION GRAPH LIKE THIS:

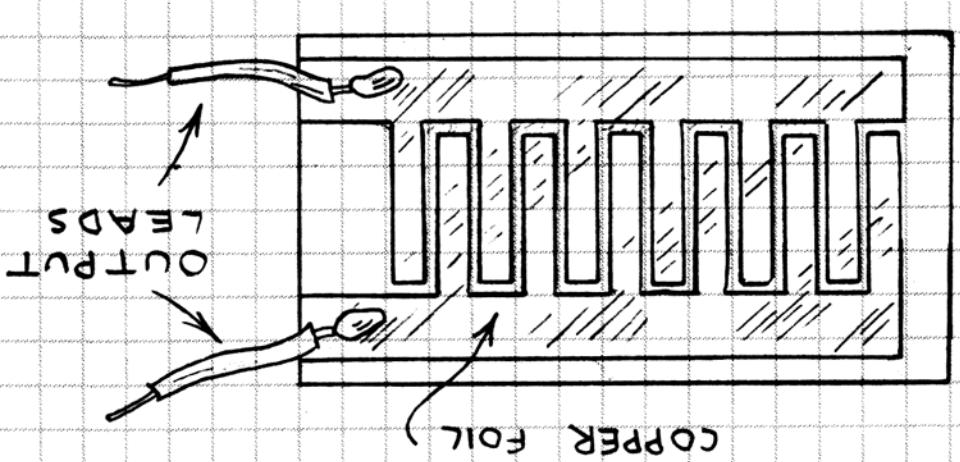
INSULATE EXPOSED MOTOR TERMINALS WITH TAPE OR SILICONE RUBBER.

CALIBRATION GRAPH



NOTE: COPPER MUST BE SHINY BRIGHTEST BEFORE SOLDERING!

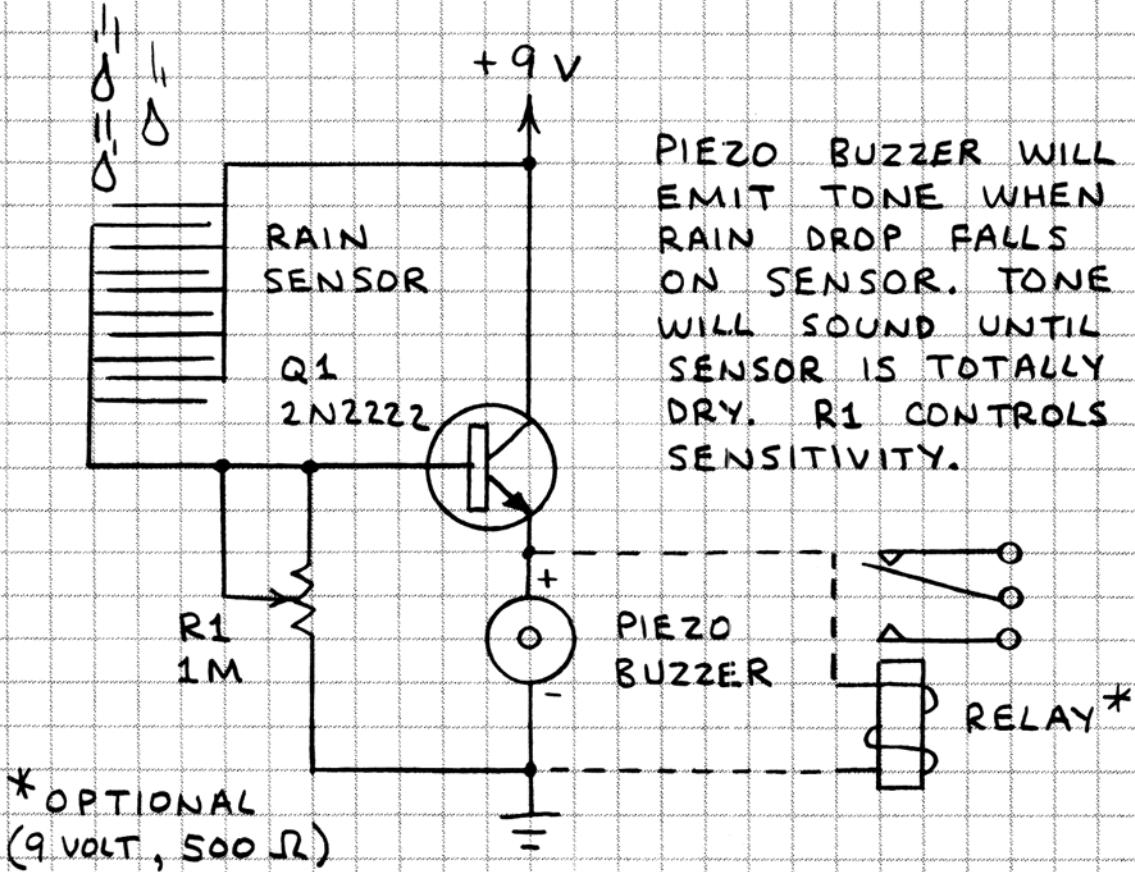
USE TAPE OR INK RESIST TO CIRCUIT BOARD THEN ETCH. REMOVE RESIST.



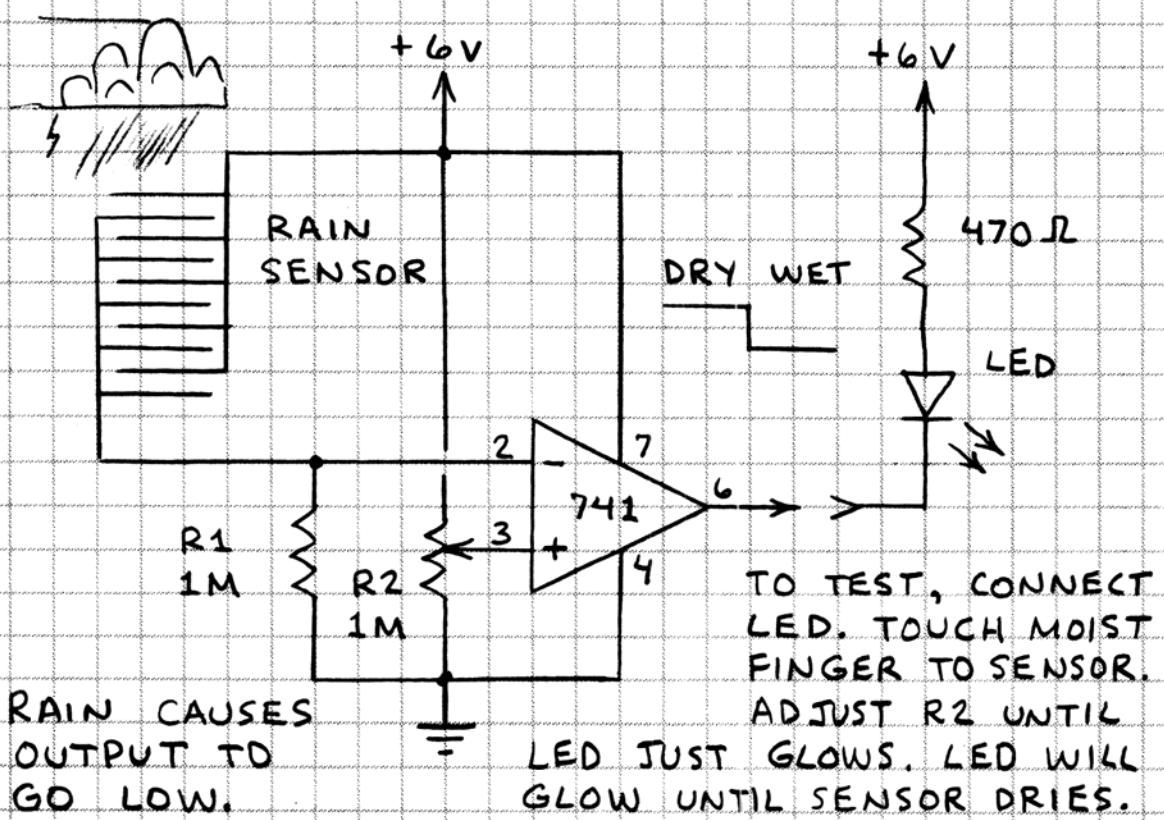
HERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO MAKE RAIN INCREASING THE AREA OF ELECTRODES. A SINGLE RAIN DROP ARE INCREASED BY ELECTRODES. THE CHANGE OF DETECTING CAN BE MADE FROM CLOSELY SPACED MEANS THAT A SIMPLE RAIN DETECTOR RAIN DROPS CONDUCT ELECTRICITY. THIS

RAIN SENSORS

RAIN-ACTIVATED ALARM



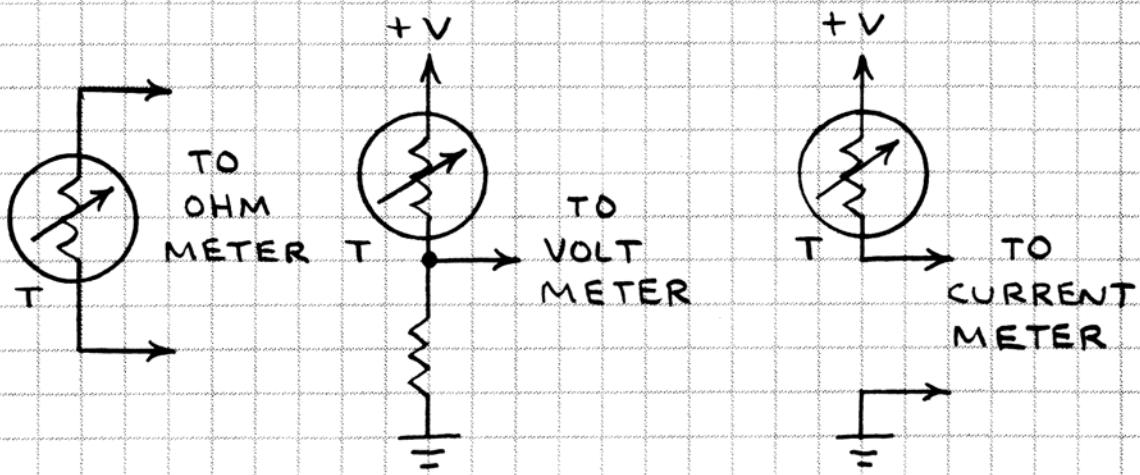
RAIN-ACTIVATED LOGIC



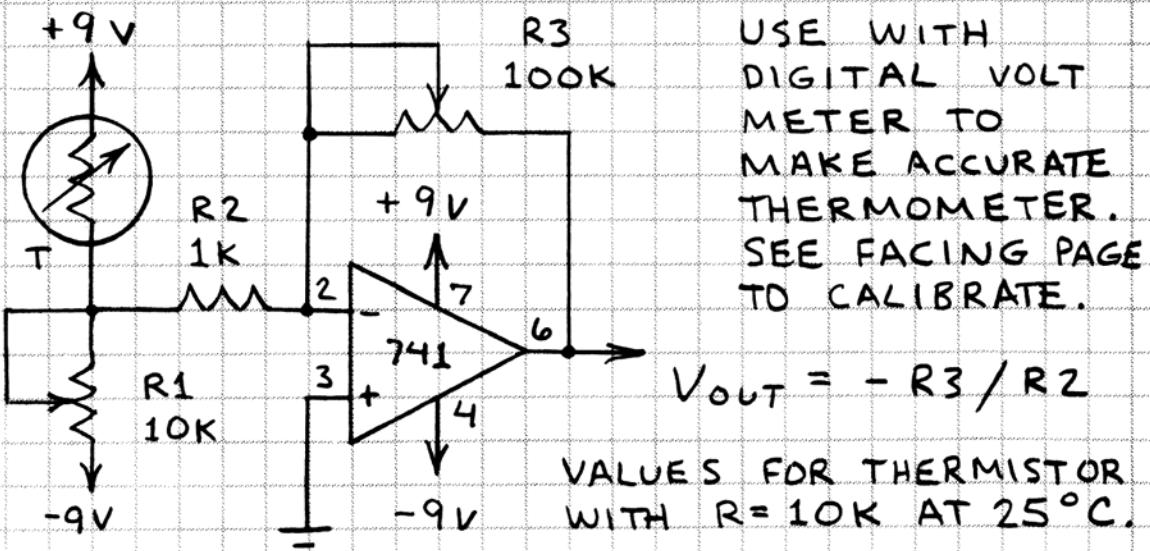
ELECTRONIC THERMOMETER

A THERMISTOR IS A TEMPERATURE DEPENDENT RESISTOR. THERMISTORS CAN BE USED TO MAKE VARIOUS KINDS OF ELECTRONIC THERMOMETERS.

THERMISTOR CIRCUITS



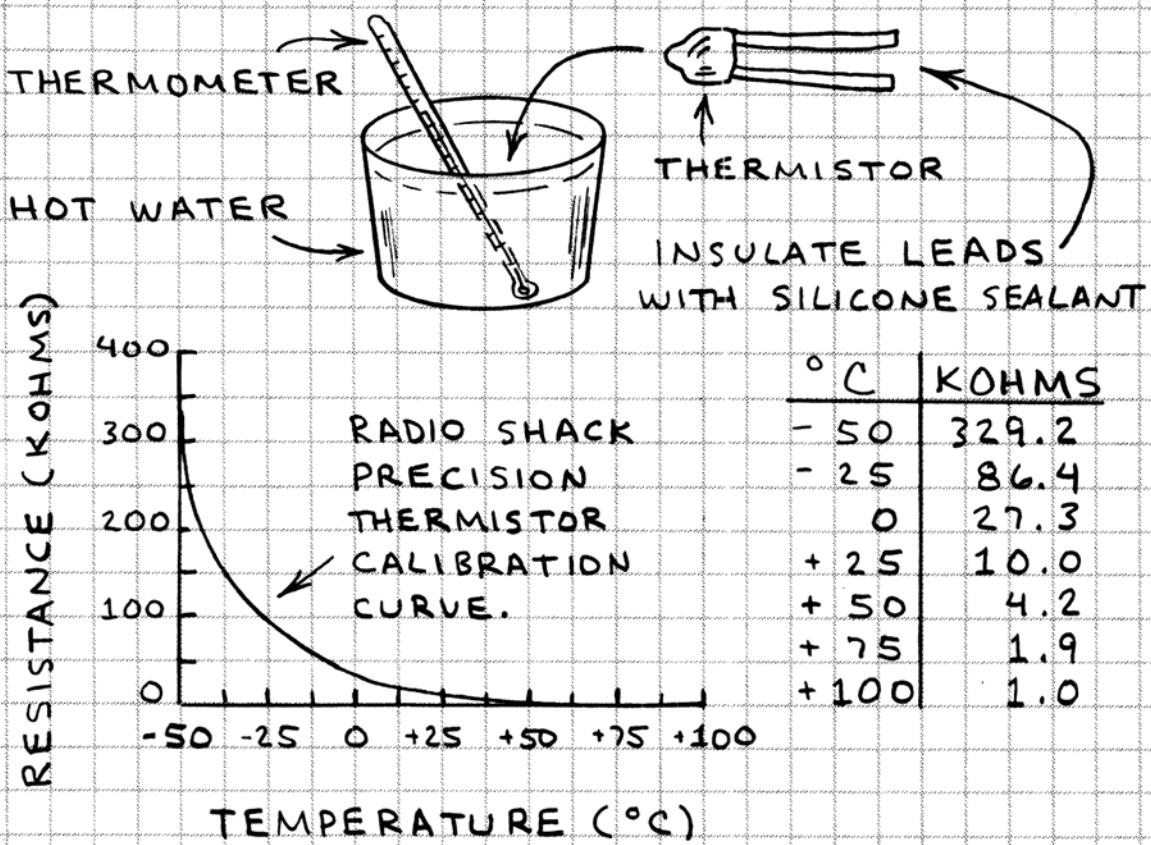
THERMISTOR AMPLIFIER



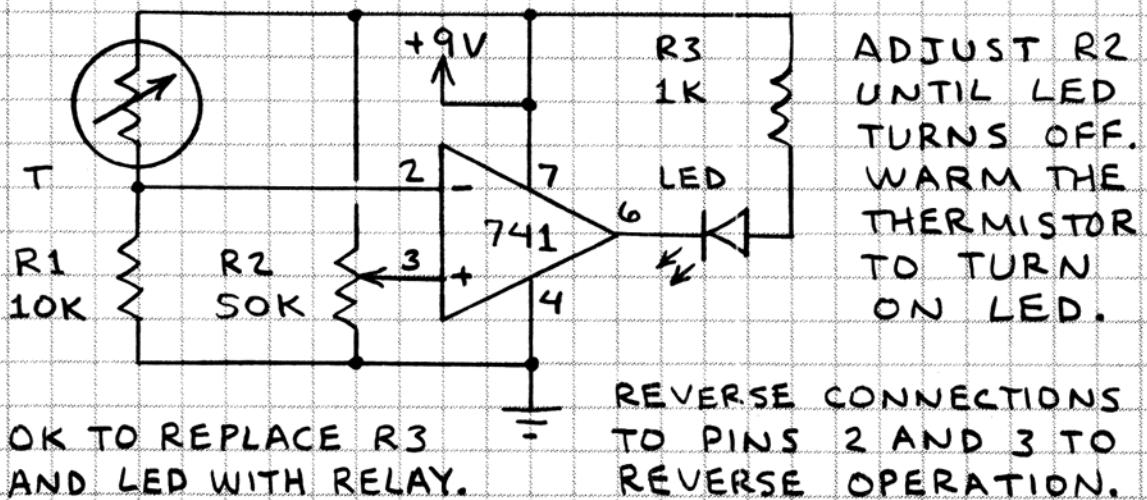
INCREASE R_3 'S RESISTANCE TO INCREASE SENSITIVITY OVER SMALL TEMPERATURE RANGE. REDUCE R_3 'S RESISTANCE TO REDUCE SENSITIVITY OVER LARGE TEMPERATURE RANGE. R_1 IS ZERO ADJUST.

THERMISTOR CALIBRATION

WATER PROOF THERMISTOR LEADS WITH SILICONE SEALANT AND ALLOW TO CURE. DIP THERMISTOR IN HOT WATER AND RECORD RESISTANCE, VOLTAGE OR CURRENT AS TEMPERATURE OF WATER FALLS. ADD ICE TO SPEED COOLING.



TEMPERATURE SWITCH

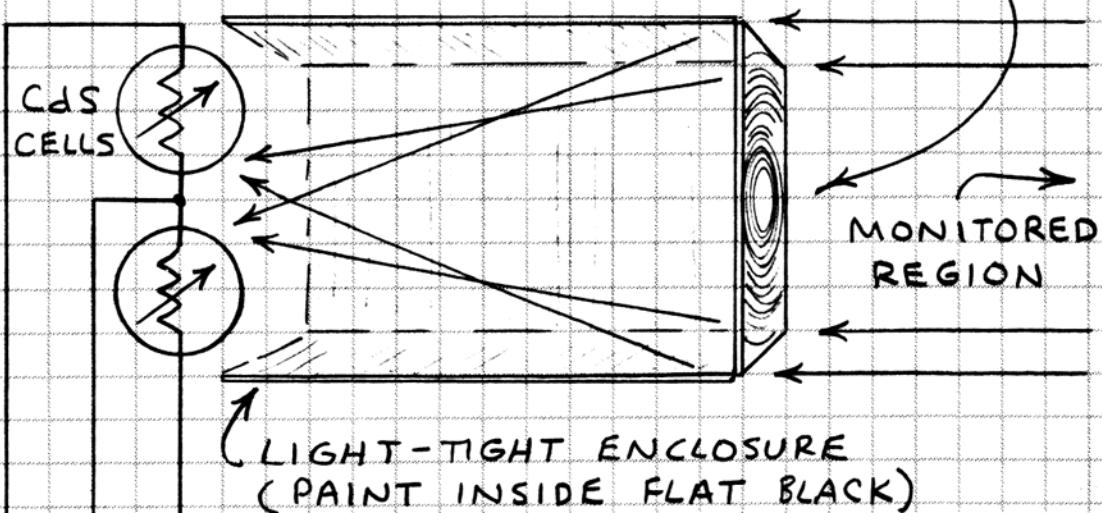


MOTION DETECTOR

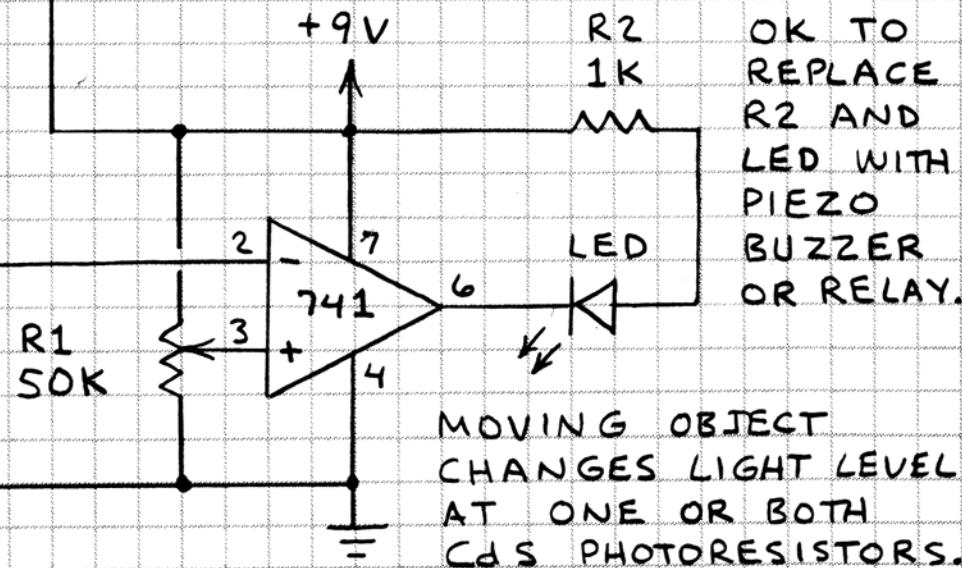
WHEN PROPERLY ADJUSTED, THIS SIMPLE CIRCUIT WILL DETECT THE MOVEMENT OF AN OBJECT WITHIN ITS FIELD OF VIEW. THE DETECTION RANGE CAN BE TENS OF FEET.

PLACE CDS CELLS BEHIND FOCAL POINT.

FLAT PLASTIC FRESNEL LENS

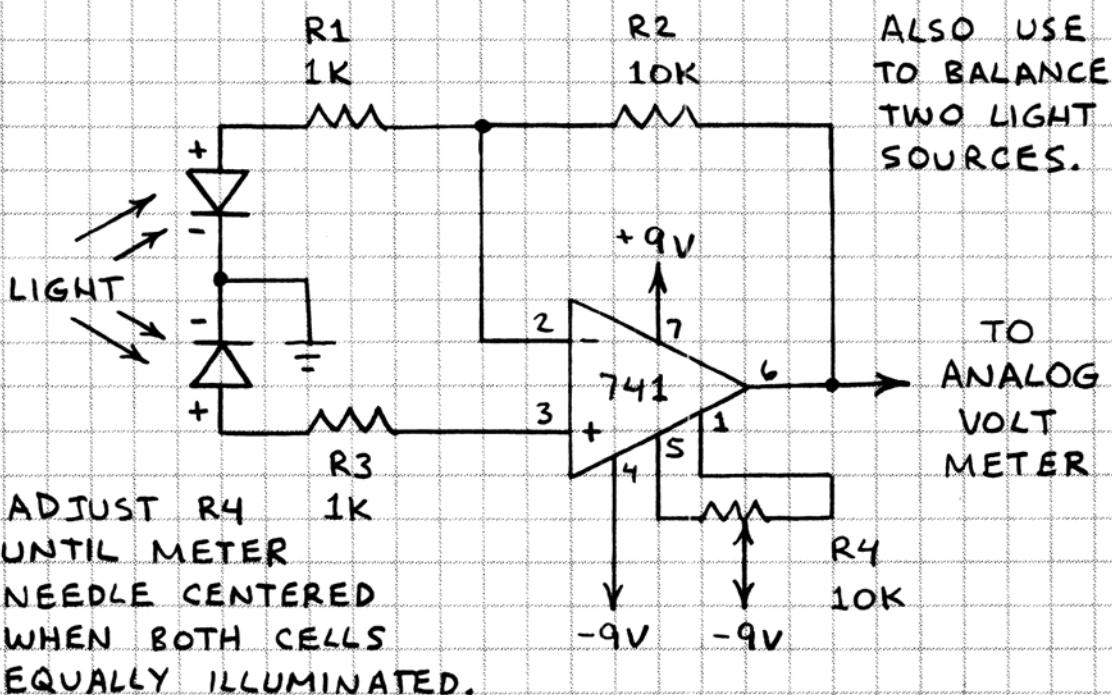


USE FLAT MAGNIFYING FRESNEL LENS AT LEAST 6 INCHES SQUARE. POINT LENS AT AREA TO BE MONITORED. ADJUST R1 UNTIL LED JUST SWITCHES OFF. MOVING OBJECT WILL LIGHT LED.

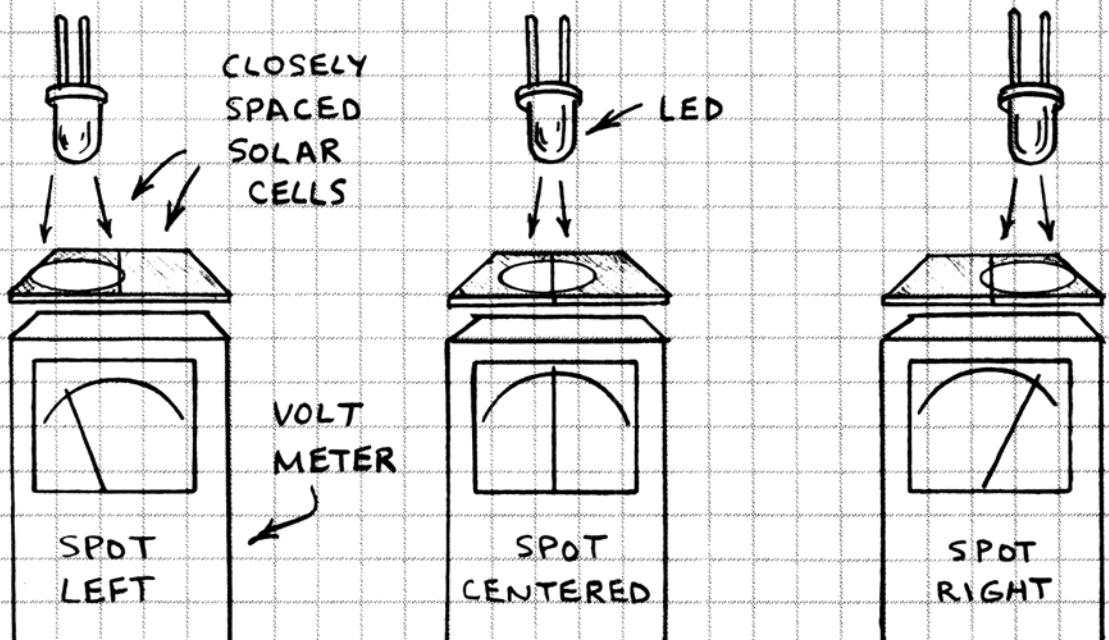


POSITION DETECTOR

USE THIS CIRCUIT TO INDICATE POSITION OF A BEAM OF LIGHT FALLING ON TWO ADJACENT SOLAR CELLS.

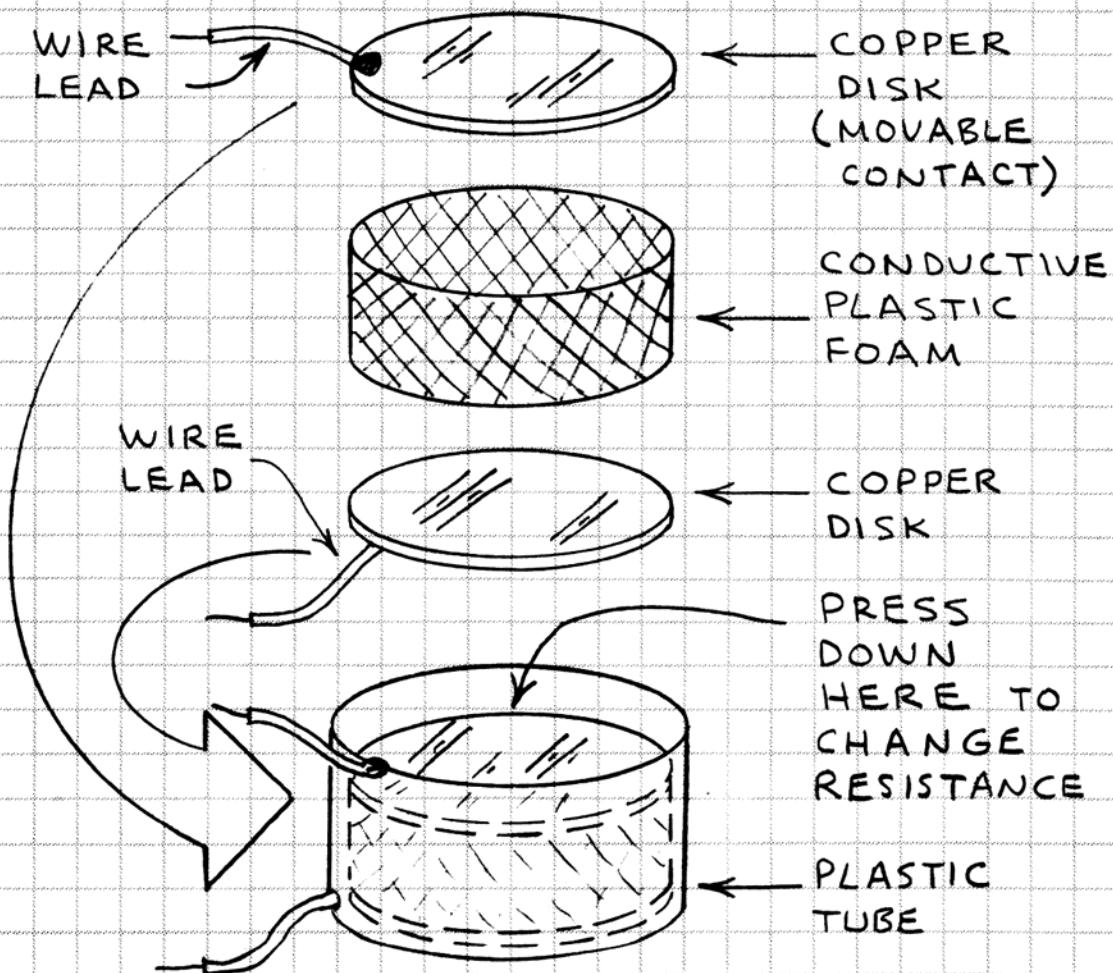


TEST WITH SUPER BRIGHT LED IN CLEAR PACKAGE. BEAM STRUCTURE MAY AFFECT READOUT. IF ONE CELL GENERATES MORE VOLTAGE WHEN LIGHT LEVEL IS BALANCED, REDUCE OTHER CELL'S INPUT RESISTANCE (R1 OR R3).



PRESSURE SENSOR

THE CONDUCTIVE FOAM PLASTIC IN WHICH STATIC-SENSITIVE COMPONENT LEADS ARE INSERTED CAN BE USED TO MAKE PRESSURE-SENSITIVE RESISTORS. YOU CAN USE A PAIR OF SUCH RESISTORS TO MAKE A PRESSURE-SENSITIVE COMPUTER JOYSTICK. A PRESSURE-SENSITIVE RESISTOR CAN BE USED TO MAKE AN ELECTRONIC SCALE. A SIMPLE ACCELEROMETER CAN BE MADE BY ATTACHING A LEAD FISHING WEIGHT TO THE MOBILE CONTACT OF A PRESSURE-SENSITIVE RESISTOR. HERE IS ONE OF MANY WAYS TO MAKE A PRESSURE-SENSITIVE RESISTOR:



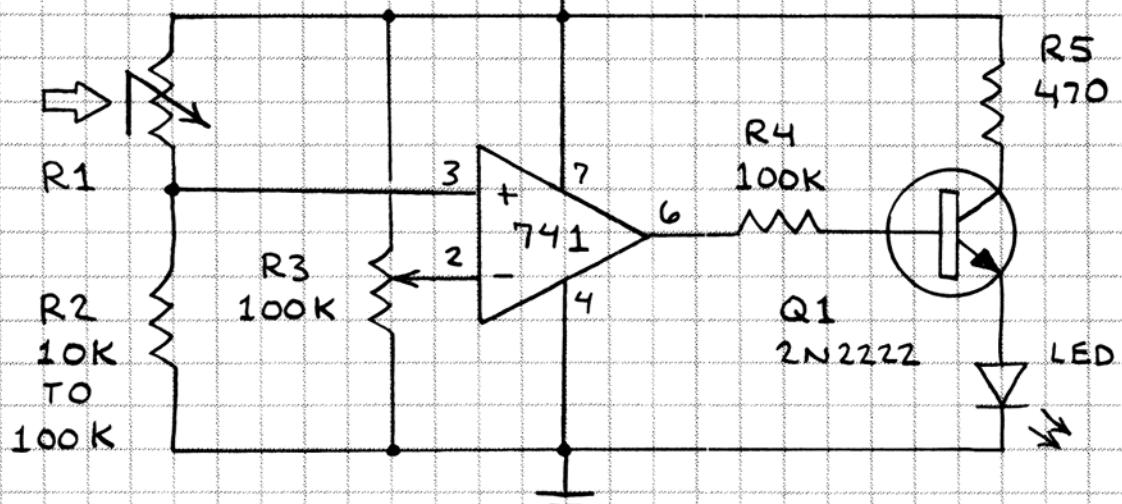
COPPER DISKS CAN BE PENNYS, COPPER FOIL OR COPPER-CLAD CIRCUIT BOARD. POLISH COPPER BEFORE SOLDERING LEADS.

PRESSURE-SENSITIVE SWITCH

R1: PRESSURE
SENSOR

+9V

ADJUST R3 UNTIL
LED SWITCHES OFF.



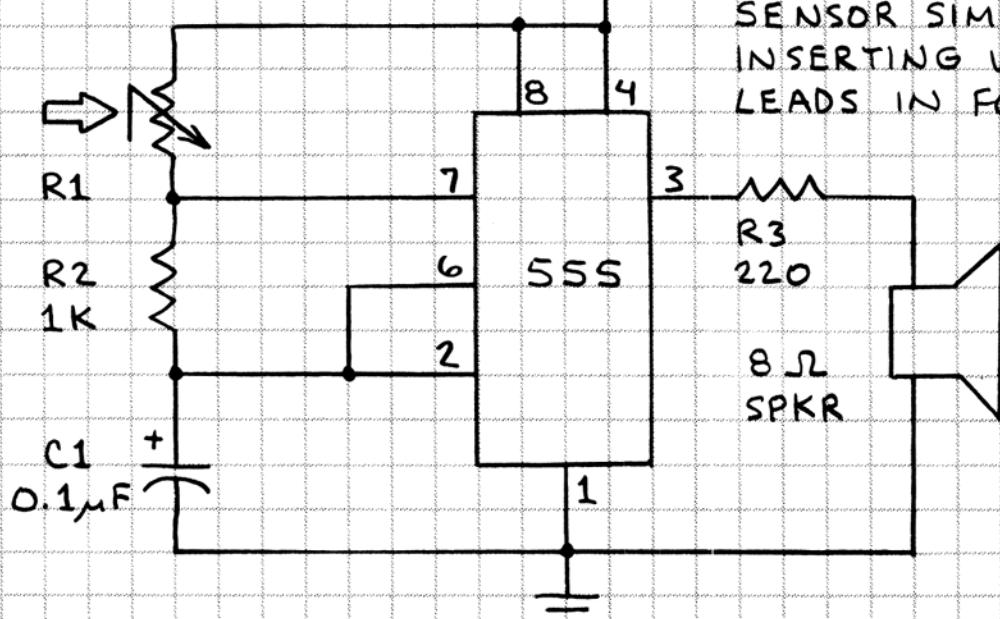
PRESS DOWN ON PRESSURE-SENSITIVE
RESISTOR R1 TO SWITCH ON Q1 AND LED.

PRESSURE-SENSITIVE TONE

R1: PRESSURE
SENSOR

+9V

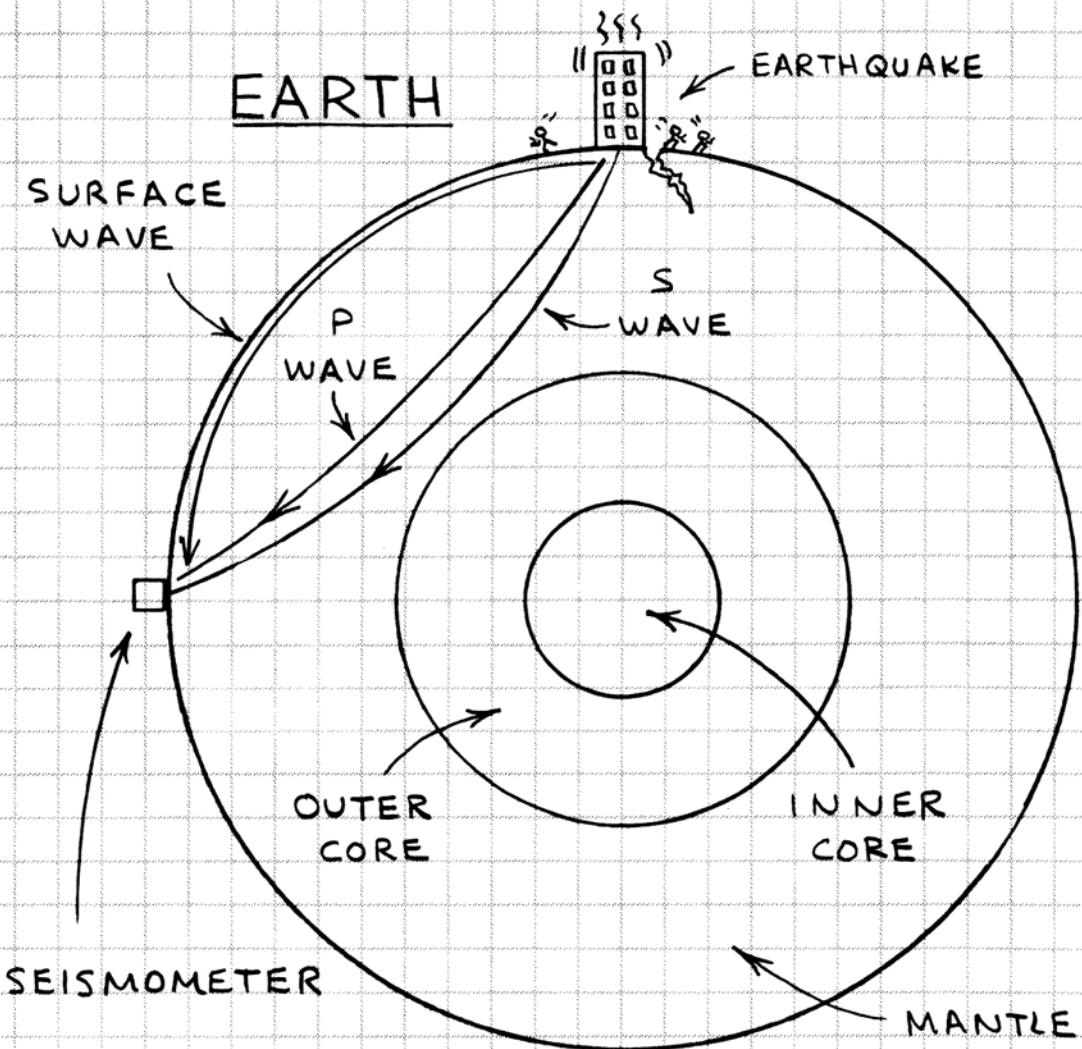
NOTE: YOU CAN
MAKE TEMPORARY
SENSOR SIMPLY BY
INSERTING WIRE
LEADS IN FOAM.



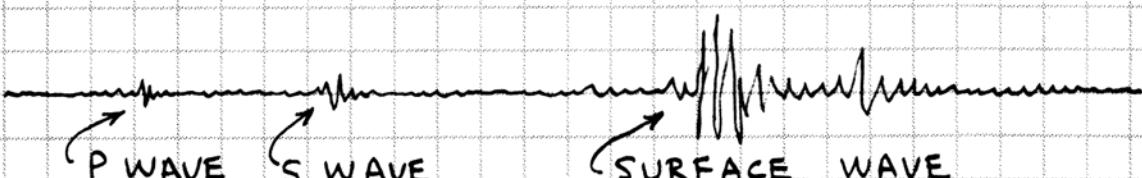
PRESS DOWN ON PRESSURE-SENSITIVE
RESISTOR R1 TO INCREASE THE FREQUENCY
OF THE TONE.

SEISMOMETER

A SEISMOMETER IS AN INSTRUMENT THAT DETECTS THE EARTH MOVEMENTS CAUSED BY EARTHQUAKES. A SIMPLE SEISMOMETER CAN DETECT EARTHQUAKES THAT OCCUR THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY. EARTHQUAKES CAUSE SEVERAL KINDS OF SEISMIC WAVES INSIDE THE EARTH.



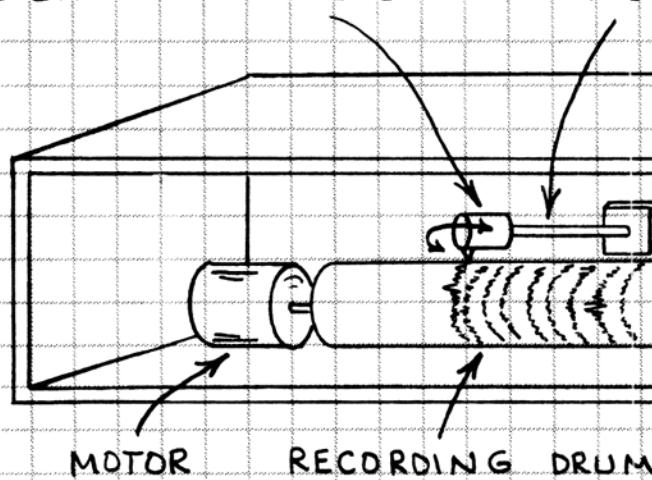
A SEISMOGRAM IS A GRAPH OF THE EARTH'S MOVEMENTS PRODUCED BY A SEISMOMETER:



P WAVE ARRIVES FIRST.

MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF SEISMOMETERS
ARE AVAILABLE. TWO EXAMPLES:

WEIGHT AND STYLUS

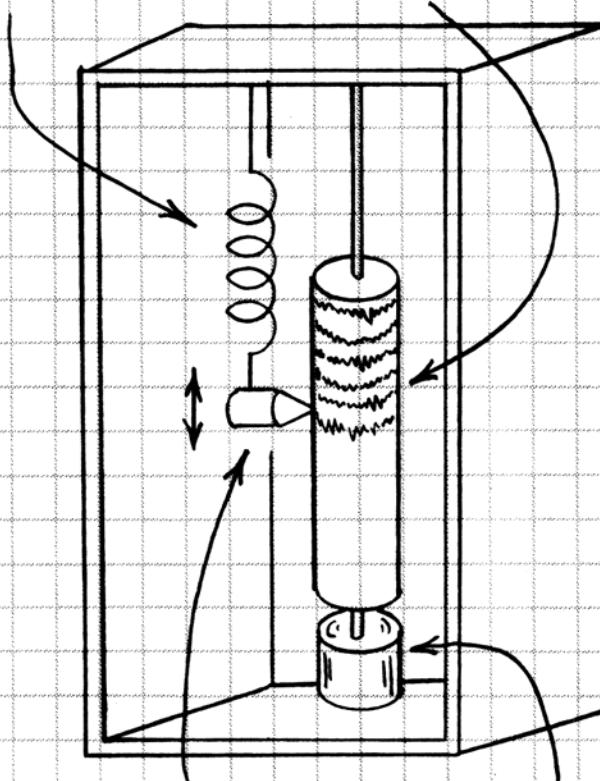


HORIZONTAL PENDULUM

SEISMOMETER
FOR SENSING
HORIZONTAL
(BACK AND FORTH)
GROUND MOTION.

SEISMOMETER
FOR SENSING
VERTICAL
(UP AND DOWN)
GROUND MOTION.

SPRING RECORDING DRUM



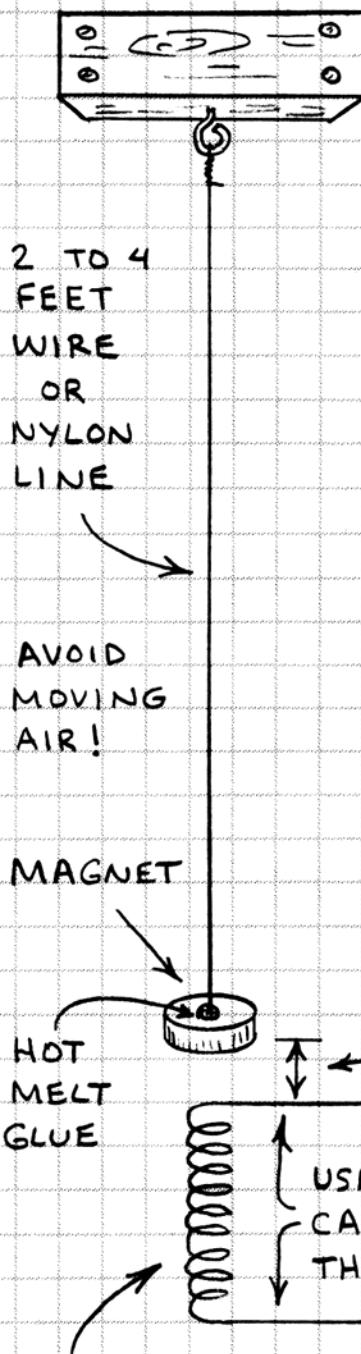
WEIGHT AND STYLUS MOTOR

SEISMOMETERS
SHOULD BE
MOUNTED ON A
FIRM FOUNDATION
OVER, IF POSSIBLE,
BED ROCK.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SEISMOMETERS,
VISIT A LIBRARY. "EARTHQUAKES" (W.H. FREEMAN
AND CO., 1988) BY BRUCE BOLT IS A GOOD BOOK.

EARTH MOVEMENT SENSOR

THIS SIMPLE SEISMIC SENSOR HAS DETECTED TRAINS MORE THAN ONE MILE AWAY.



STURDY BEAM
USE THIS TEMPORARY
PENDULUM FOR INITIAL TESTS.
INSTALL PICKUP COIL ON
HEAVY SURFACE THAT CAN BE
MOVED DIRECTLY UNDER MAGNET.

2 TO 4
FEET
WIRE
OR
NYLON
LINE

AVOID
MOVING
AIR!
MAGNET

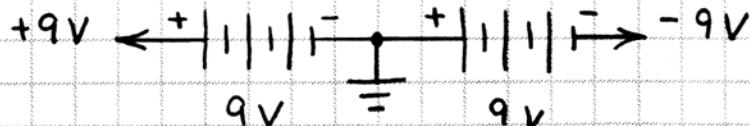
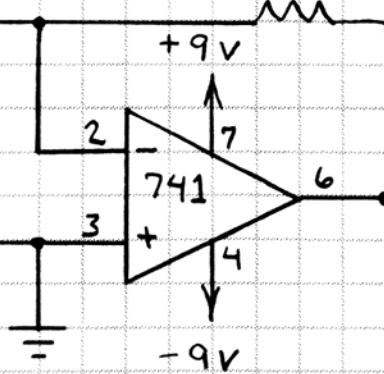
HOT
MELT
GLUE

PICKUP
COIL
(USE
TELEPHONE
PICKUP COIL
OR 9-VOLT
RELAY).

ADJUSTMENT PROCEDURE:
PLACE A MAGNET DIRECTLY ON
TOP OF PICKUP COIL. ADJUST
R2 UNTIL LED JUST SWITCHES
OFF AND DOES NOT FLICKER.
REMOVE MAGNET. LED SHOULD
FLASH AND FLICKER WHEN THE
MAGNET IS MOVED NEAR THE
PICKUP COIL. NEXT, PLACE
PICKUP COIL DIRECTLY UNDER
PENDULUM MAGNET. REDUCE R1
TO 1M IF CIRCUIT TOO SENSITIVE.

REDUCE THIS SPACE TO R1
INCREASE SENSITIVITY. 10M

KEEP BATTERY
LEADS SHORT.

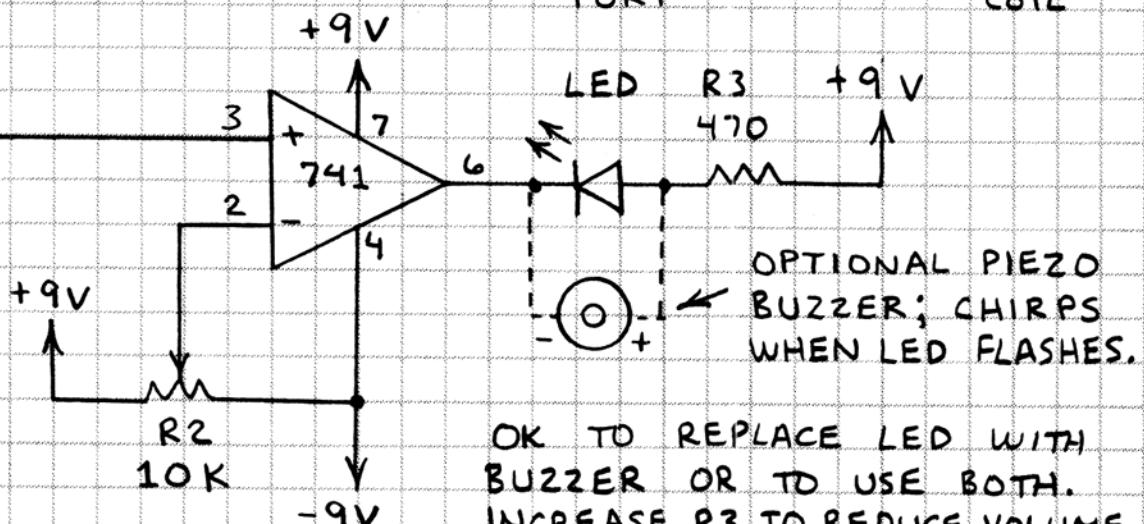
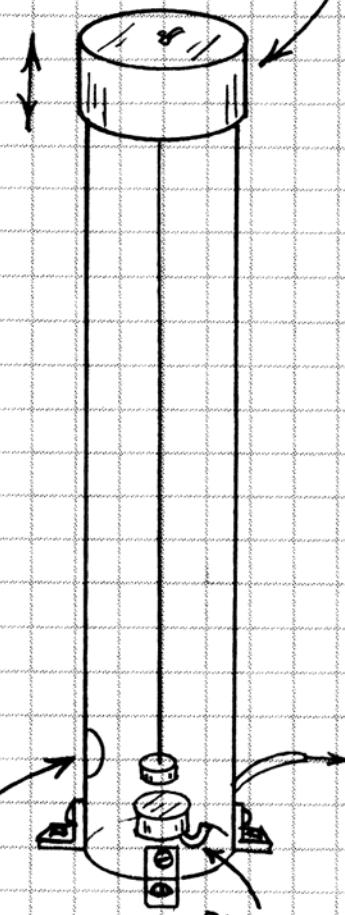


THIS SENSOR IS EXCEPTIONALLY SENSITIVE!
IF LED FAILS TO STOP FLICKERING, REDUCE THE
SENSITIVITY. EITHER READJUST R2 OR INCREASE
SPACE BETWEEN MAGNET AND PICKUP COIL.

FOR PERMANENT USE
INSTALL PENDULUM
AND PICKUP COIL IN
METAL OR PLASTIC PIPE TO
PREVENT AIR MOVEMENT
FROM MOVING PENDULUM.
USE L-BRACKETS TO BOLT
ASSEMBLY TO CONCRETE
FOUNDATION FOR BEST
RESULTS. WHEN HE WAS
IN HIGH SCHOOL IN TEXAS,
ERIC RYAN MIMS USED
SIMILAR ARRANGEMENT
TO DETECT UNDERGROUND
NUCLEAR TESTS IN NEVADA.

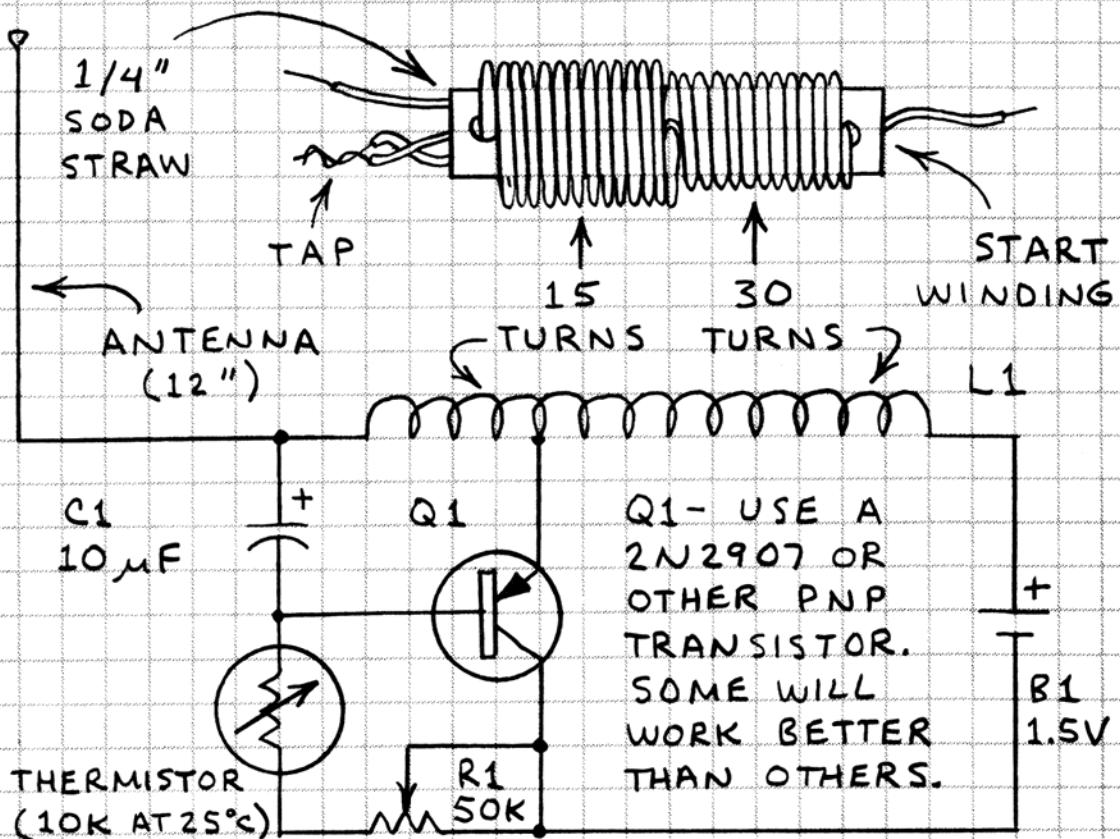
ADJUST POSITION OF MAGNET
BY MOVING CAP UP OR DOWN
OR BY MOVING PENDULUM
THROUGH HOLE IN CAP. MAKE
OBSERVATION PORT TO OBSERVE
MAGNET. COVER WITH CLEAR
PLASTIC WINDOW.

THREADED OR
PUSH-ON CAP.



RF TELEMETRY TRANSMITTER

THIS SIMPLE LOW-POWER RADIO FREQUENCY (RF) TRANSMITTER WILL BROADCAST TEMPERATURE AS A SERIES OF CLICKS TO A NEARBY RADIO TUNED TO THE UPPER END OF THE AM BROADCAST BAND.



L1: USE 30 GAUGE WRAPPING WIRE OR MAGNET WIRE. (USE MAGNET WIRE FOR SMALLER COIL. BURN VARNISH FROM ENDS OF WIRE AND TAP AND LIGHTLY BUFF CHARRED VARNISH WITH SAND PAPER.) PUNCH SMALL HOLE NEAR ONE END OF STRAW. INSERT 2" OF WIRE THROUGH HOLE AND WIND 30 TURNS. PUNCH HOLE IN STRAW AND INSERT 2" LOOP OF WIRE (TAP) THROUGH HOLE. WIND 15 TURNS BACK OVER FIRST WINDING. PUNCH HOLE THROUGH WINDING AND INSERT END OF WIRE. WRAPPING WIRE: CUT TAP LOOP AND TWIST EXPOSED WIRES.

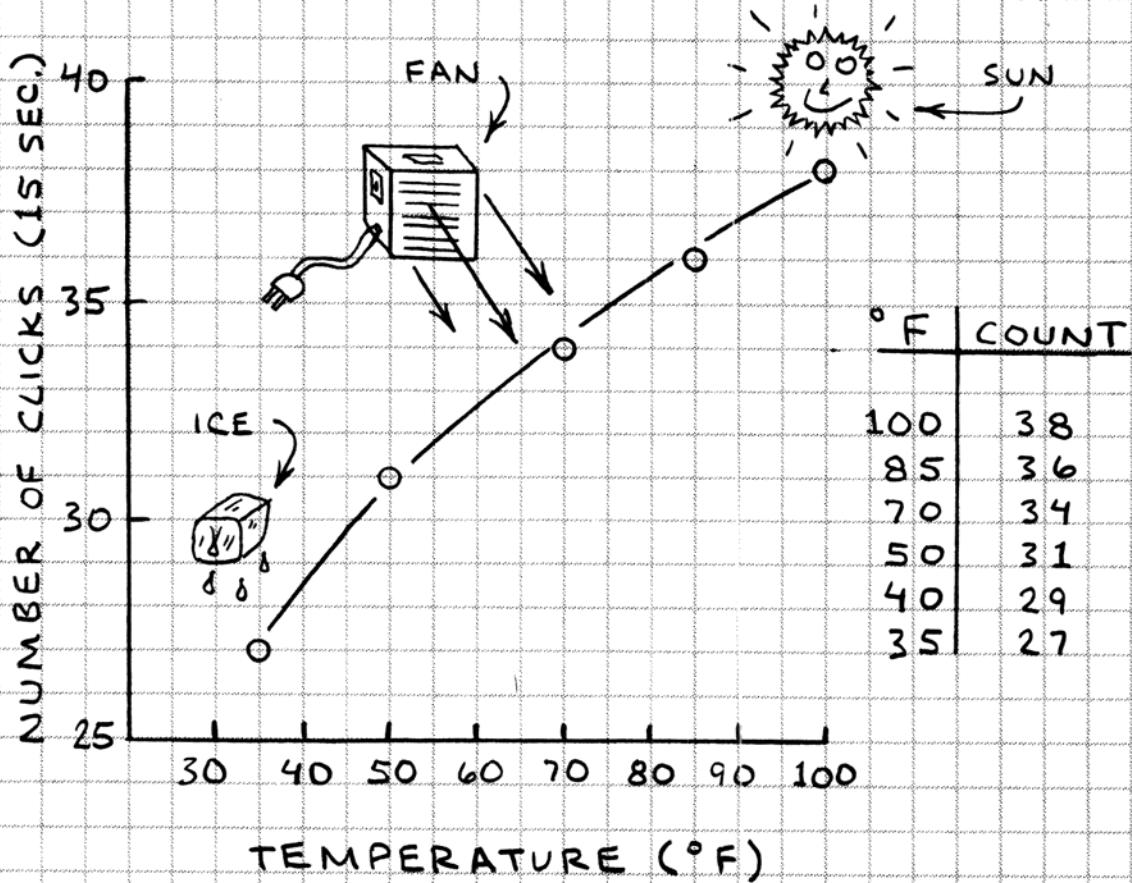
C1: INCREASE VALUE TO SLOW PULSE RATE.

R1: ADJUST TO CHANGE PULSE RATE.

B1: USE AA PENLIGHT CELL.

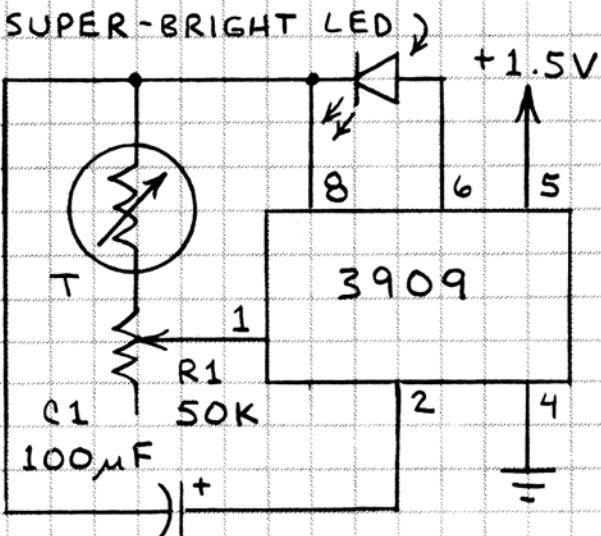
SAMPLE CALIBRATION GRAPH

WATERPROOF LEADS OF THERMISTOR WITH SILICONE SEALANT. IMMERSE THERMISTOR AND THERMOMETER IN WARM WATER. SWITCH ON TRANSMITTER AND RECEIVER. COUNT NUMBER OF CLICKS IN 15 SECONDS AND RECORD COUNT AND TEMPERATURE. REPEAT AS WATER COOLS. ADD ICE FOR COLD TEMPERATURES. SAMPLE CALIBRATION:



CALIBRATION WILL CHANGE IF R1 IS READJUSTED. OK TO USE FIXED RESISTOR FOR R1. CIRCUIT WORKS BEST WITH THERMISTOR THAT HAS A RESISTANCE AT ROOM TEMPERATURE (25°C) OF 10 K.

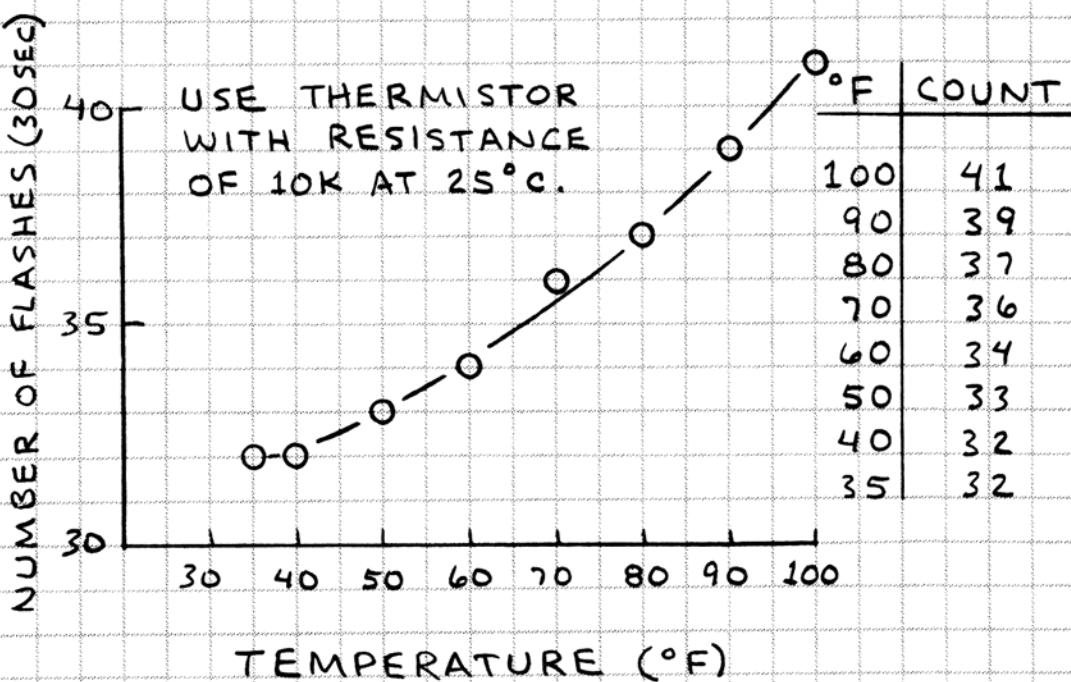
LED TELEMETRY TRANSMITTER



THIS LED FLASHER WILL TELL YOU THE TEMPERATURE AT ITS LOCATION FROM ANYWHERE YOU CAN SEE ITS FLASHES. CHECK TEMPERATURE OF GREENHOUSE, GARDEN, ETC. WHILE YOU STAY INDOORS. WORKS BEST IN SUBDUE LIGHT.

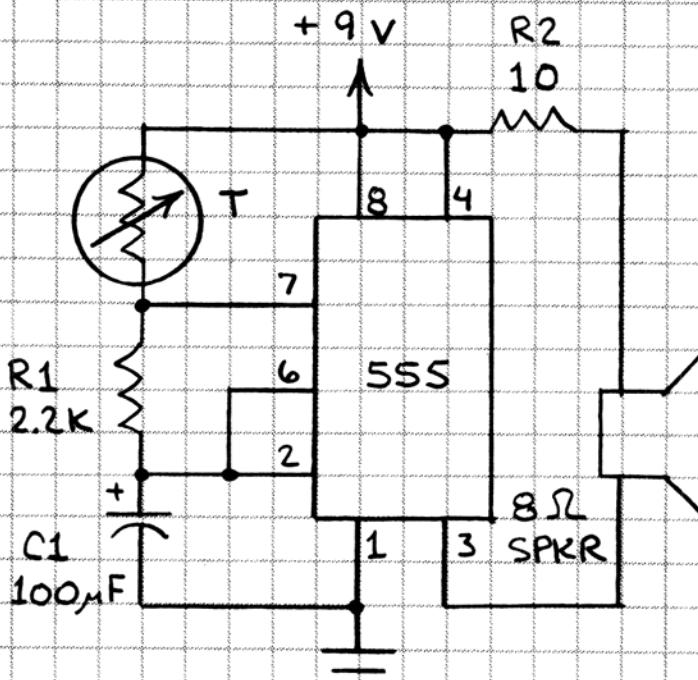
SAMPLE CALIBRATION GRAPH

ADJUST R1 FOR DESIRED ROOM TEMPERATURE FLASH RATE. THEN CALIBRATE TRANSMITTER AS DESCRIBED ON PRECEDING PAGE. HERE IS A SAMPLE CALIBRATION GRAPH:



CALIBRATION IS FOR NUMBER OF FLASHES IN 30 SECONDS. YOU CAN MAKE A MORE ACCURATE GRAPH BY COUNTING FLASHES IN 60 SECONDS. R1 CAN BE FIXED RESISTOR.

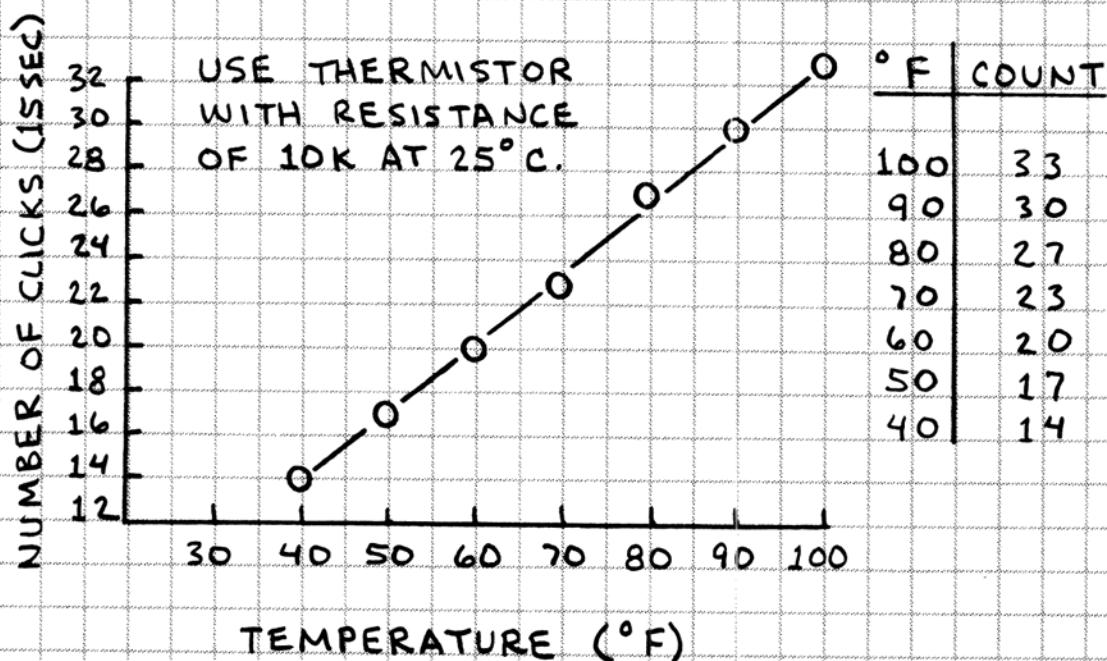
ELECTRONIC CRICKET



LIKE A CRICKET, THE RATE OF CLICKS EMITTED BY THIS CIRCUIT IS DEPENDENT ON TEMPERATURE. INCREASE VALUE OF C1 TO REDUCE RATE OF CLICKS. OK TO REPLACE SPEAKER WITH LED TO CONVERT TEMPERATURE TO FLASHING RATE OF LED.

SAMPLE CALIBRATION GRAPH

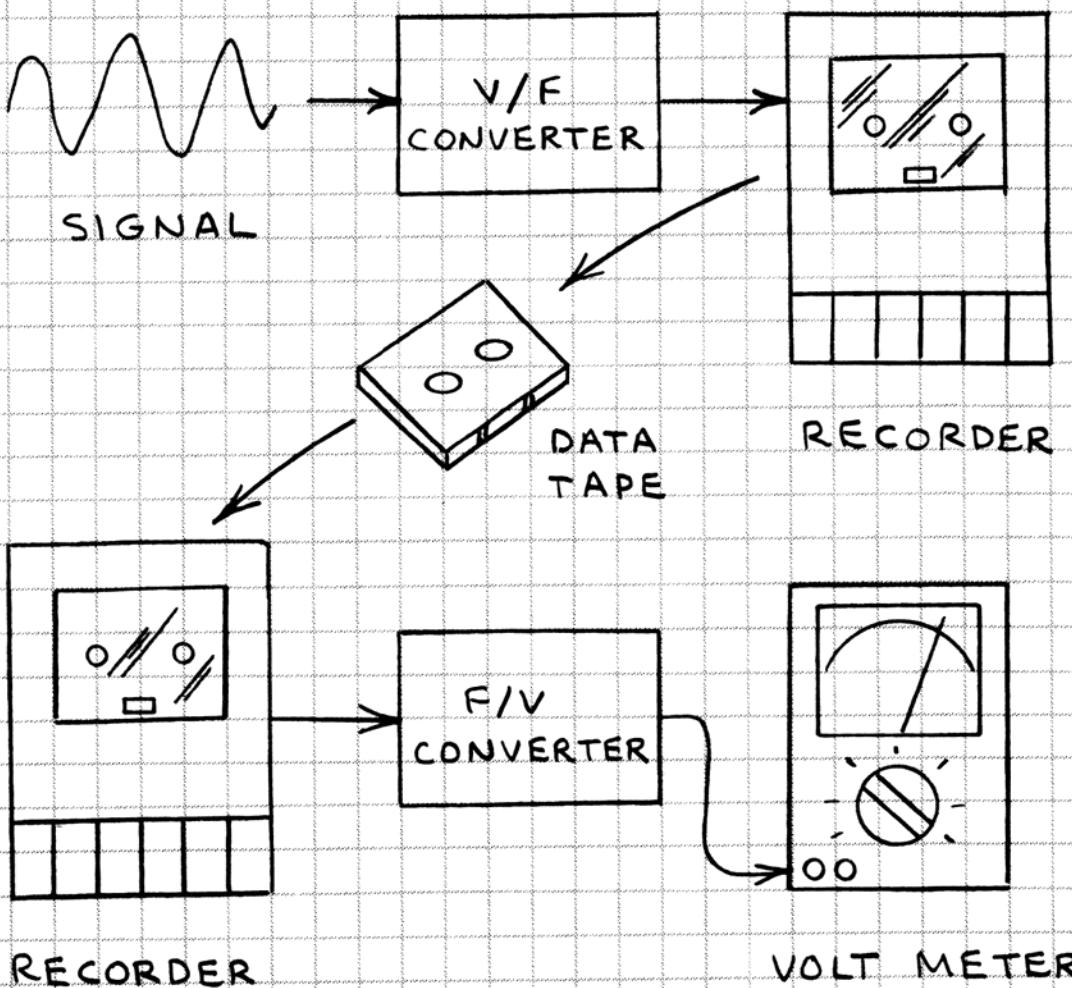
CALIBRATE AS DESCRIBED ON PREVIOUS PAGES. NOTE THAT PLOT IS LINEAR AND THAT IT HAS A WIDE COUNT RANGE.



FOR THIS CALIBRATION, TEMPERATURE IS ABOUT 3 TIMES NUMBER OF CLICKS IN 15 SECONDS.

ANALOG DATA LOGGER

YOU CAN RECORD EXPERIMENTAL DATA ON MAGNETIC TAPE WITH THE HELP OF A SMALL CASSETTE TAPE RECORDER. FIRST, CONVERT SIGNAL TO BE SAVED INTO A VOLTAGE. THEN TRANSFORM THE VOLTAGE INTO AN AUDIO-FREQUENCY TONE WITH A VOLTAGE-TO-FREQUENCY (V/F) CONVERTER. RECORD TONE ON MAGNETIC TAPE. RETRIEVE DATA BY PLAYING TAPE THROUGH A FREQUENCY-TO-VOLTAGE (F/V) CONVERTER.

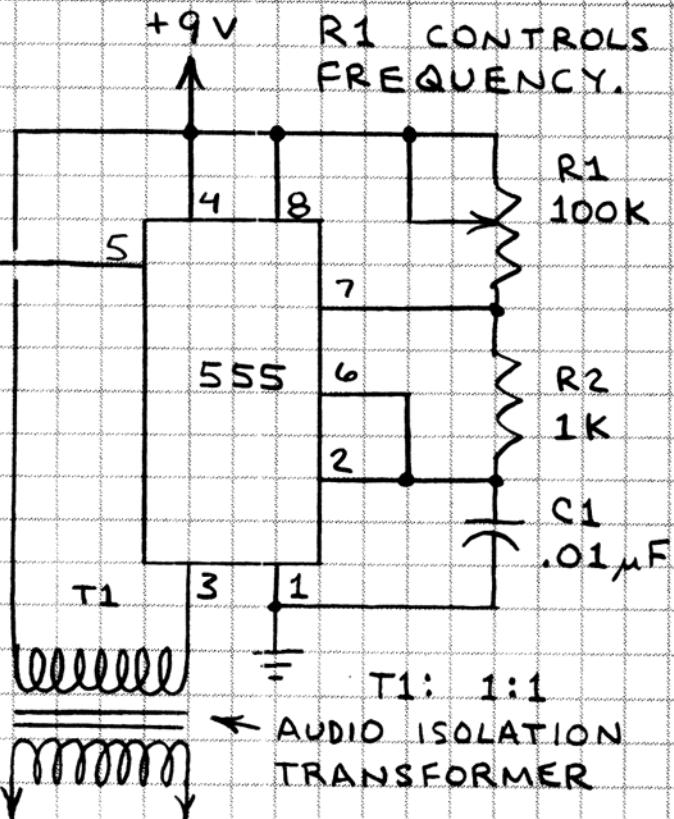


FOR BEST RESULTS, USE QUALITY RECORDING TAPE. BETTER QUALITY RECORDERS WORK BEST. YOU CAN SQUEEZE MORE DATA ON A TAPE BY RECORDING 5 SECOND "SNAP SHOTS."

V/F CONVERTER

SIGNAL VOLTAGE
(FROM SENSOR
OR SENSOR
AMPLIFIER).

OK TO CONNECT
V/F CONVERTER
DIRECTLY TO
F/V CONVERTER
TO CALIBRATE
SYSTEM. SET R1
FOR DESIRED
CENTER FREQUENCY.



OUTPUT TO RECORDER'S
MICROPHONE INPUT.

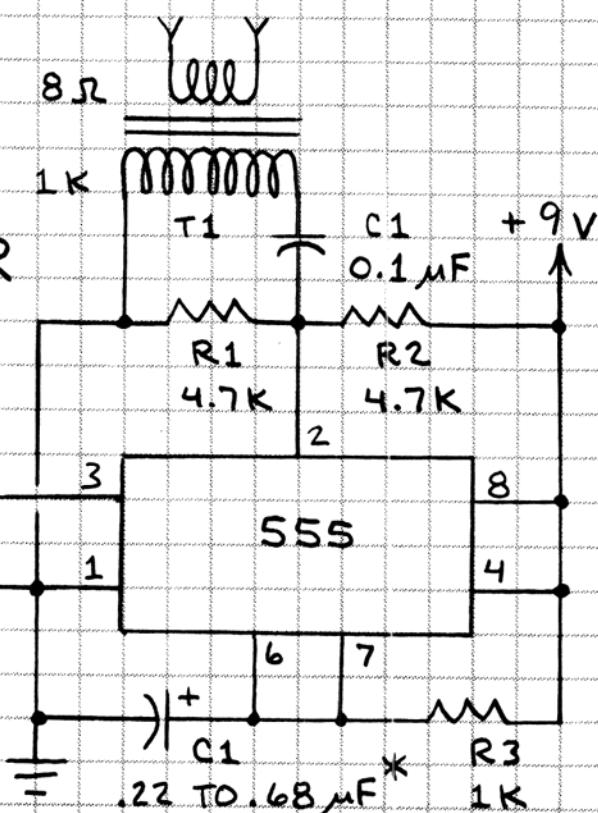
INPUT FROM RECORDER'S EARPHONE OUTPUT.

CONVERTER

OUTPUT

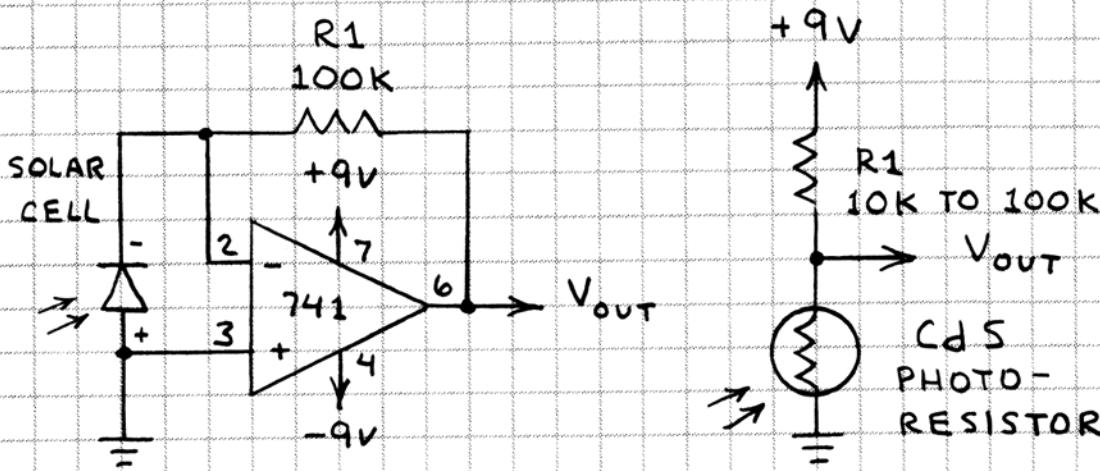
TD
VOLT METER

* SEE NEXT
PAGE . . .

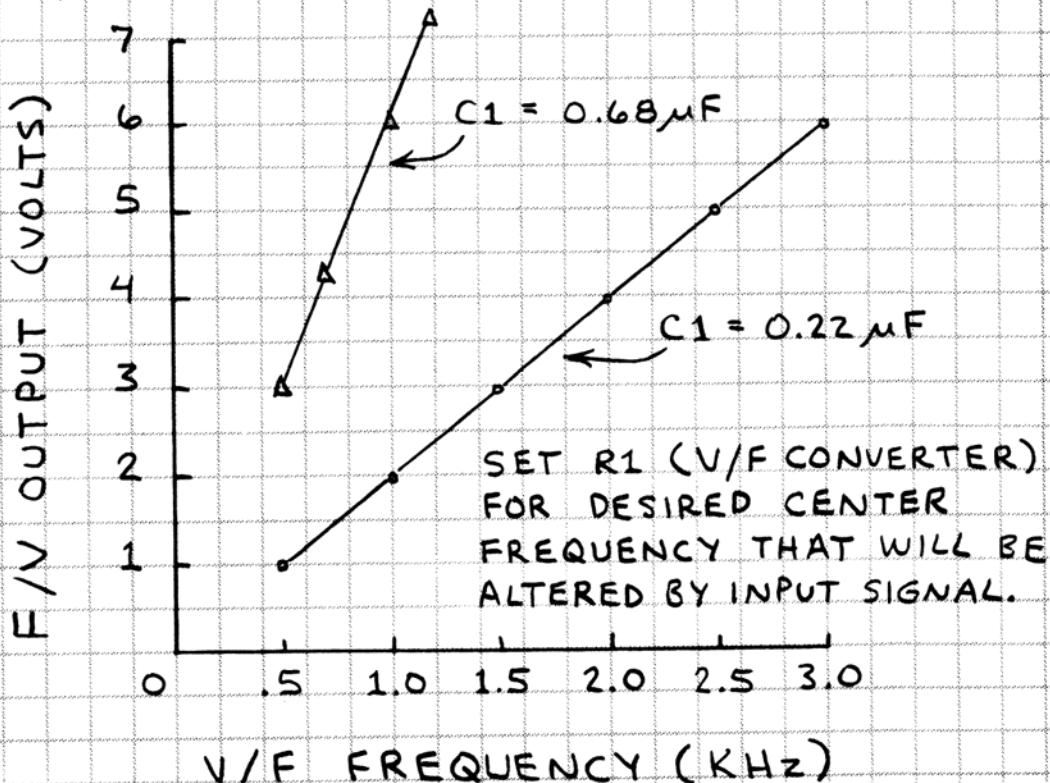


DATA LOGGER OPERATION

THE OUTPUT FROM MOST SENSORS CAN BE CHANGED TO A VOLTAGE. FOR EXAMPLE, THESE CIRCUITS BOTH CHANGE LIGHT INTENSITY INTO A VARIABLE VOLTAGE:



HERE IS A CALIBRATION GRAPH FOR TWO VALUES OF C_1 IN THE F/V CONVERTER. THE GRAPH SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS APPROXIMATE SINCE DIFFERENCES IN COMPONENT VALUES WILL CAUSE CHANGES IN THE GRAPH.



ALWAYS USE CAUTION WHEN MEASURING THE ENVIRONMENT, ESPECIALLY DURING LIGHTNING STORMS AND AROUND BODIES OF WATER. USE EAR PROTECTORS WHEN MEASURING LOUD SOUND. NEVER LOOK AT THE SUN WHEN MEASURING ITS LIGHT.

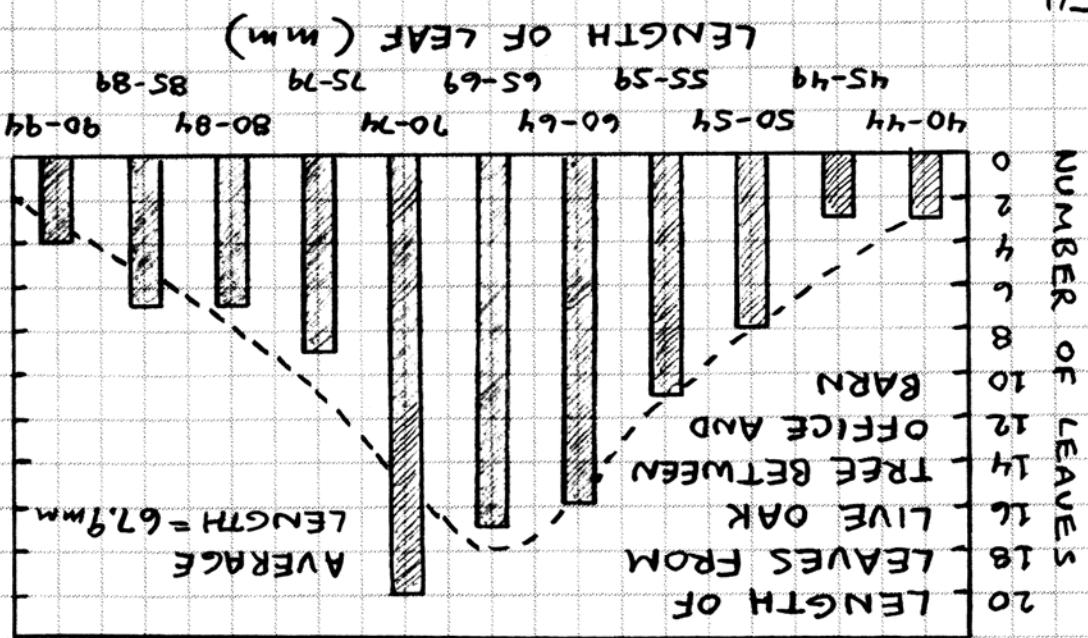
SAFETY

THE PROJECTS THAT FOLLOW DESCRIBE THE BASICS OF WATER TESTING AND MEASURING SOUND, HAZE, TEMPERATURE, SUNLIGHT AND LIGHTING. BY REGULARLY MONITORING ONE OR MORE OF THESE OR OTHER PARAMETERS, YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPROVEMENT CONTRIBUTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE.

- EMISSIONS FROM COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS CAN COMBINE WITH WATER VAPOR TO FORM THICK BLANKETS OF HAZE.
- A BEAVER DAM CAN CREATE A LARGE POOL THAT ALTERS THE POPULATION OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS.
- INSECTS CAN DESTROY LARGE STANDS OF PLANTS AND EVEN TREES.
- MAJOR VOLCANOES CAN EJECT SULFUR DIOXIDE WITH WATER VAPOR TO FORM A MIST OF SULFURIC (SO₂) INTO THE ATMOSPHERE. THE SO₂ COMBINES WITH ACID (H₂SO₄) WHICH BLOCKS SUNLIGHT.
- NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS CONSTANTLY CHANGE IN RESPONSE TO MANY INFECTANCES. FOR EXAMPLE: SUBTLE CHANGES IN THE SUN'S ENERGY MAY CAUSE MAJOR CLIMATE CHANGES ON EARTH.

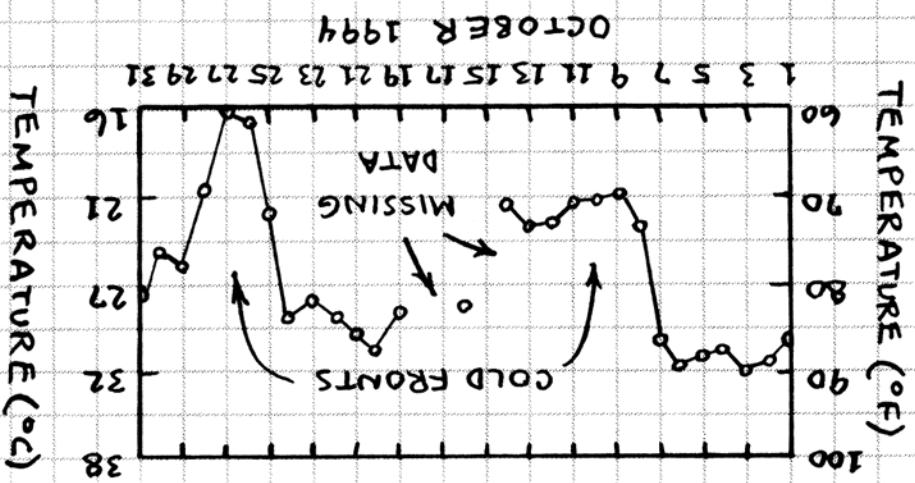
II. ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

OVERVIEW



A BARGRAPH THAT SHOWS THE FREQUENCY OF OCCURRENCE IS A HISTOGRAM. THIS ONE SHOWS THE CLASSIC BELL-SHAPED CURVE.

HISTOGRAM



ALLOWS YOU TO SEE CHANGES IN TRENDS.

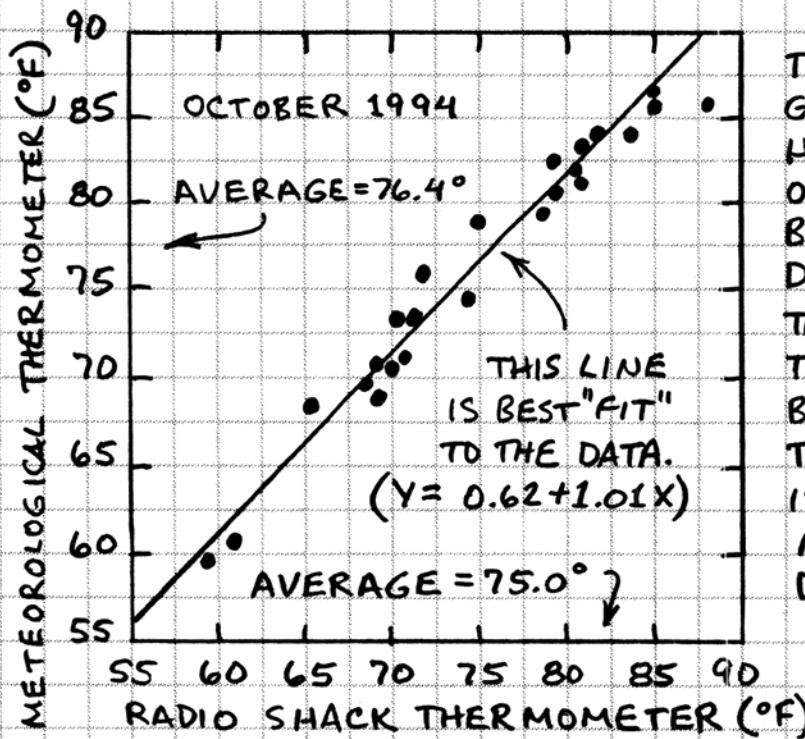
LINE GRAPH

ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO PRESENT YOUR DATA IS TO PLOT IT ON A GRAPH. THESE GRAPHS SHOW MY OBSERVATIONS AT GERONIMO CREEK, TEXAS.

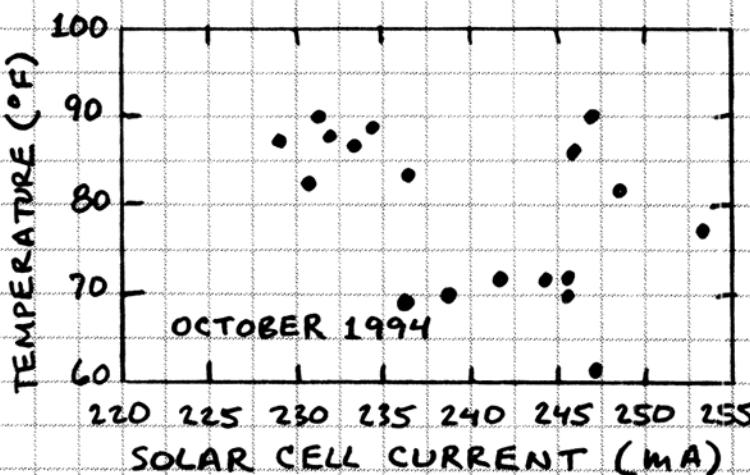
GRAPHING YOUR DATA

SCATTER GRAPH

IS THERE A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TWO SETS OF DATA? ASSIGN ONE SET TO X AXIS (\leftrightarrow) AND THE OTHER TO Y AXIS ($\uparrow\downarrow$). PLOT PAIRS OF DATA AS POINTS. THE MORE CLOSELY THE POINTS ARE CLUSTERED ALONG A LINE, THE BETTER THE CORRELATION OR AGREEMENT OF THE TWO SETS OF DATA.



THIS SCATTER GRAPH SHOWS A HIGH DEGREE OF CORRELATION BETWEEN TWO DIGITAL THERMOMETERS. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO AVERAGES IS THE "OFFSET", A CONSISTENT DIFFERENCE.



THIS SCATTER GRAPH SHOWS NO OBVIOUS CORRELATION BETWEEN TEMPERATURE AND INTENSITY OF SUN LIGHT.

GOING FURTHER

FOR SERIOUS ANALYSIS, USE A SCIENTIFIC CALCULATOR OR COMPUTER SPREADSHEET TO GRAPH YOUR DATA.

SOUND

WHEN YOU HEAR A SOUND, YOUR EARS ARE RESPONDING TO TINY, RAPID CHANGES IN THE PRESSURE OF THE AIR. THESE CHANGES ARE SOUND WAVES. THEY MAY HAVE A SINGLE PITCH (FREQUENCY) AND CONSTANT LOUDNESS (INTENSITY OR AMPLITUDE). OR THEY MAY BE A COMPLEX MIXTURE OF WAVES WITH DIFFERENT FREQUENCIES AND AMPLITUDES. REPETITIOUS WAVES OF UNIFORM OR GRADUALLY CHANGING FREQUENCY AND AMPLITUDE ARE USUALLY MORE PLEASANT THAN IRREGULAR, ABRUPTLY CHANGING WAVES.

SOUND INTENSITY

SINCE THE EAR RESPONDS TO AN ENORMOUS RANGE OF SOUND LEVELS, THE INTENSITY OF SOUND IS EXPRESSED USING A LOGARITHMIC SCALE IN WHICH 0 DECIBELS IS A BARELY PERCEPTIBLE SOUND WITH AN INTENSITY OF 10^{-12} WATTS PER SQUARE METER (W/m^2).

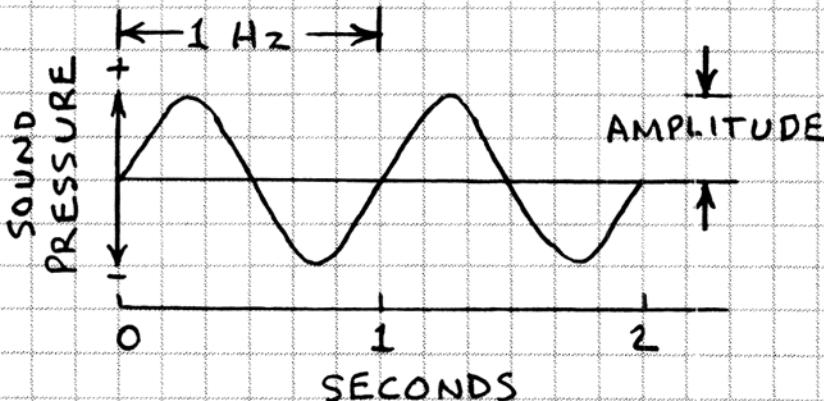
RATIO OF MEASURED
TO REFERENCE SOUND

RATIO IN
DECIBELS

A 10dB INCREASE IS AN INCREASE OF 10 TIMES THE INITIAL INTENSITY. (60dB = 10 \times 50dB.)	1 10 100 1,000 10,000 100,000 1,000,000 10,000,000 100,000,000 1,000,000,000 10,000,000,000 100,000,000,000 1,000,000,000,000 10,000,000,000,000 100,000,000,000,000	0 dB 10 dB 20 dB 30 dB 40 dB 50 dB 60 dB 70 dB 80 dB 90 dB 100 dB 110 dB 120 dB 130 dB 140 dB
--	--	---

SOUND FREQUENCY

SOUND WAVES RANGE FROM PURE SINE WAVES TO COMPLEX COMBINATIONS OF WAVES. THIS SINE WAVE HAS A FREQUENCY OF 1 CYCLE PER SECOND (1 HERTZ OR 1 Hz):



RANGE OF HUMAN HEARING

THE NORMAL HUMAN EAR CAN PERCEIVE SOUNDS RANGING IN FREQUENCY FROM 20 TO 20,000 Hz. THE PERCEPTION OF HIGH FREQUENCIES DECREASES WITH AGE AND IS REDUCED BY REPEATED EXPOSURE TO VERY LOUD SOUNDS. INFRASONIC SOUND IS SOUND HAVING A FREQUENCY BELOW THE RANGE OF HUMAN HEARING. ULTRASONIC SOUND IS SOUND HAVING A FREQUENCY ABOVE THE RANGE OF HUMAN HEARING.

THE SPEED OF SOUND

THE SPEED OF SOUND IN DRY AIR AT 0° CELSIUS (32° FAHRENHEIT) IS 331 METERS (1086 FEET) PER SECOND. THE SPEED INCREASES WITH TEMPERATURE. AT 20° C (68° F), THE SPEED OF SOUND IN AIR IS 343 METERS (1125 FEET) PER SECOND. SOUND WAVES TRAVEL THROUGH LIQUIDS AND SOLIDS MUCH MORE RAPIDLY THAN THROUGH AIR. THE SPEED OF SOUND IN WATER AT 25°C (77°F) IS 1497 METERS (4911 FEET) PER SECOND.

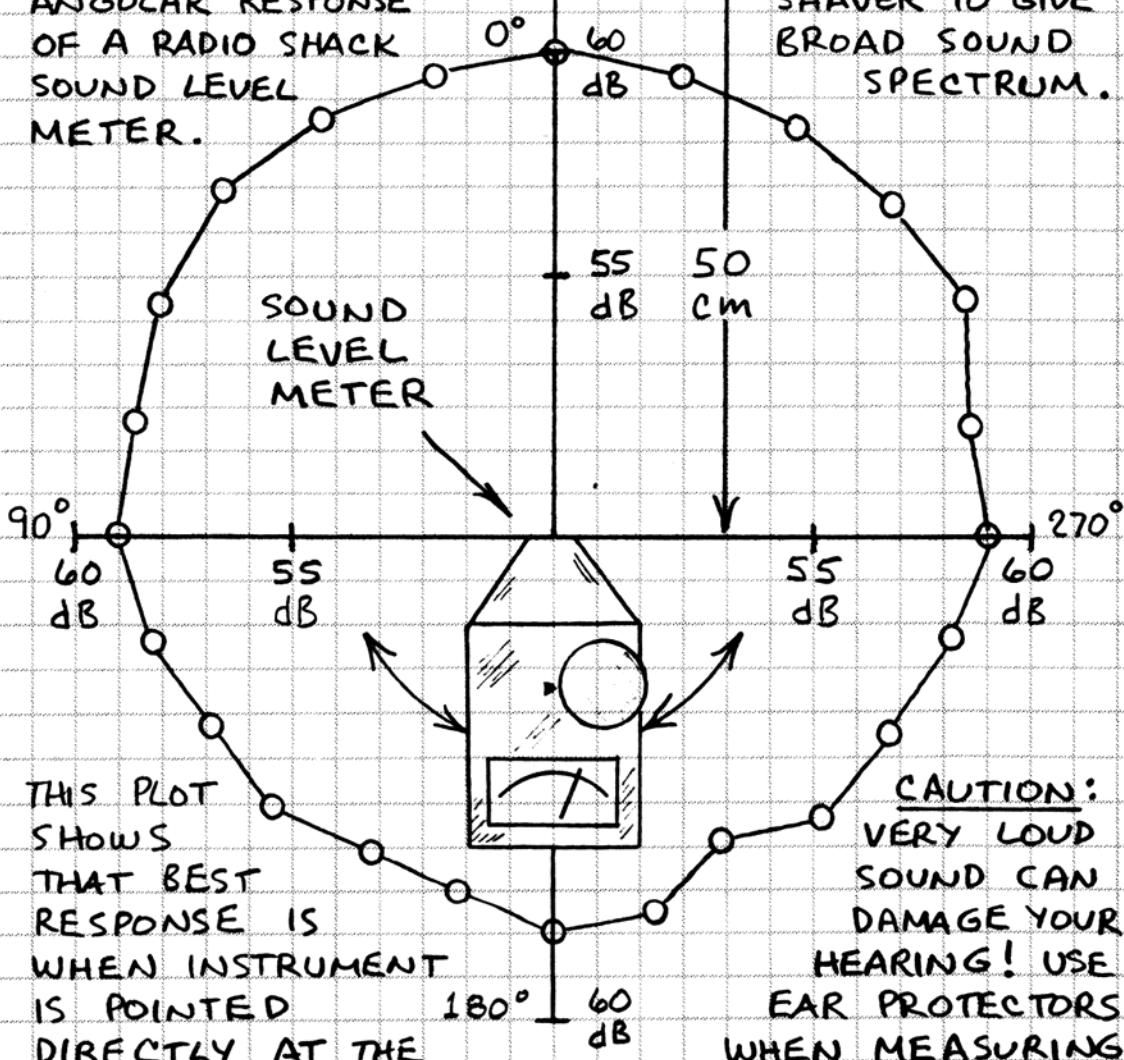
MEASURING SOUND INTENSITY

RADIO SHACK SOUND LEVEL METER'S ARE IDEAL FOR CONDUCTING SOUND SURVEYS. WHEN MEASURING SOUND COMING FROM ONE DIRECTION, DO NOT HOLD THE METER BETWEEN YOUR BODY AND THE SOURCE OF THE SOUND. HOLD THE METER TO ONE SIDE AND POINT IT AT THE SOUND SOURCE. USE FAST RESPONSE FOR SPORADIC SOUNDS OR TO MEASURE PEAKS. USE SLOW RESPONSE TO MEASURE AVERAGE SOUND LEVEL.

THIS IS A POLAR PLOT OF THE ANGULAR RESPONSE OF A RADIO SHACK SOUND LEVEL METER.

SOUND SOURCE

SOUND SOURCE:
BATTERY POWERED
SHAVER TO GIVE
BROAD SOUND
SPECTRUM.



TYPICAL SOUND LEVELS

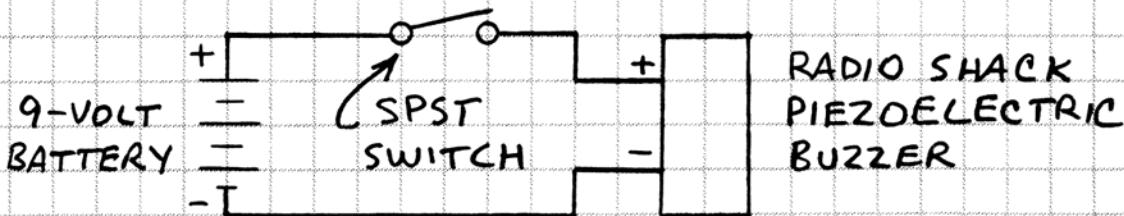
SOUND INTENSITY CAN VARY WITH WIND AND LOCATION OF THE SOUND LEVEL METER. HERE ARE SOME TYPICAL LEVELS:

<u>SOURCE</u>	INTENSITY (dB)
JET AIRCRAFT (6m)	140
THRESHOLD OF PAIN	130
SUBWAY TRAIN	102
NIAGARA FALLS	92
PASSING TRUCK (6m)	80
PIANO (EAR OF PLAYER)	80
WATER FILLING TUB (1m)	76
VACUUM CLEANER (2m)	72
TYPICAL CAR (5m)	70
JET AIRCRAFT (2KM)	68
EXHAUST FAN (2m)	68
COMPUTER (1m)	58
RADIO (3m)	57
TYPICAL OFFICE	55
TYPICAL RESIDENCE	40
WHISPER (1.5m)	18
THRESHOLD OF SOUND	0

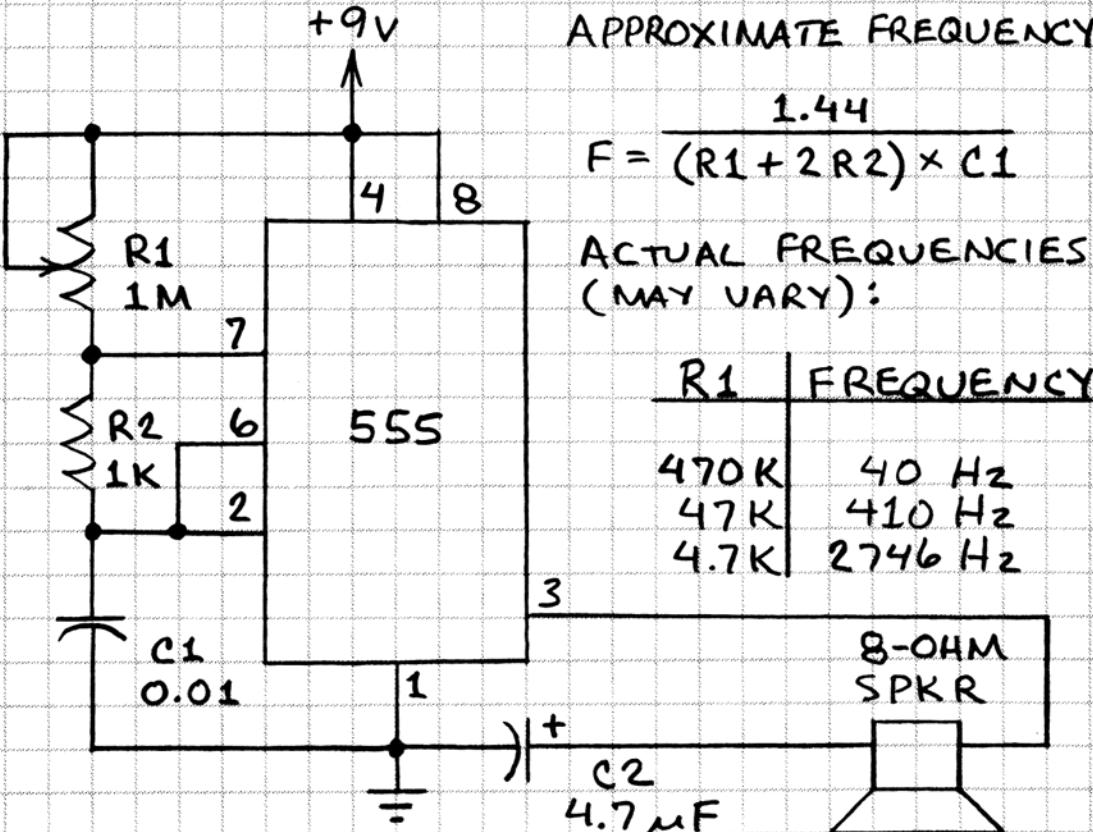
ARTIFICIAL SOUND SOURCES

ARTIFICIAL SOUND SOURCES CAN BE USEFUL IN EVALUATING THE ACOUSTICAL PROPERTIES OF A ROOM OR AUDITORIUM. THEY ARE ESPECIALLY USEFUL WHEN USED WITH A SOUND LEVEL METER. SMALL ELECTRIC MOTORS AND ELECTRIC SHAVERS CAN BE USED AS BROAD BAND, LOW FREQUENCY SOUND SOURCES. THE CIRCUITS BELOW ARE TONE SOURCES.

SINGLE FREQUENCY TONE

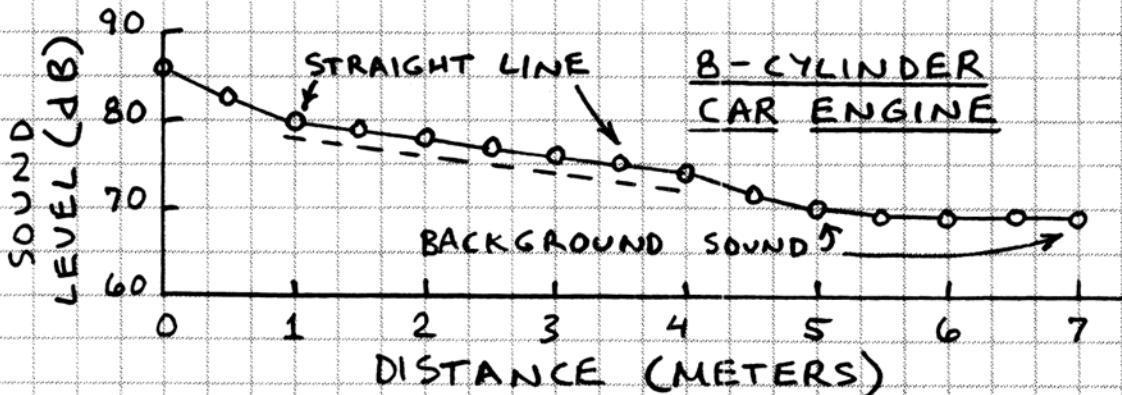
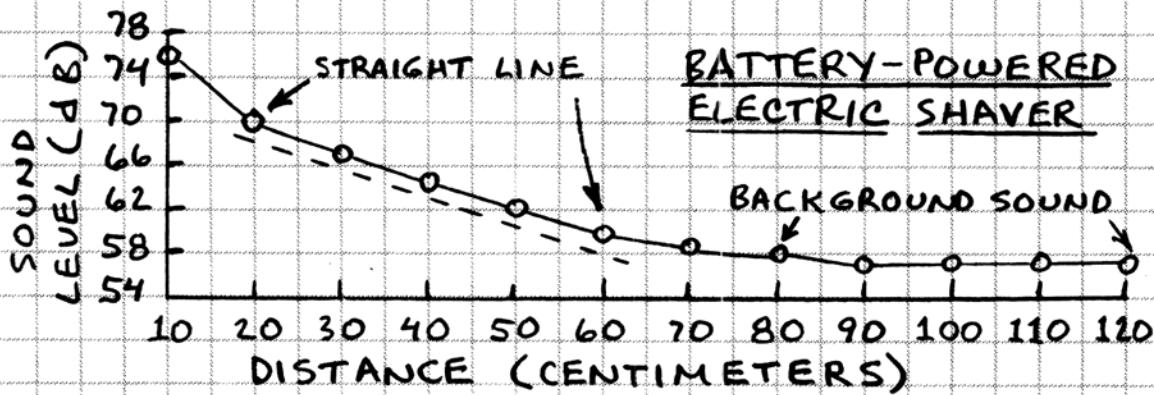
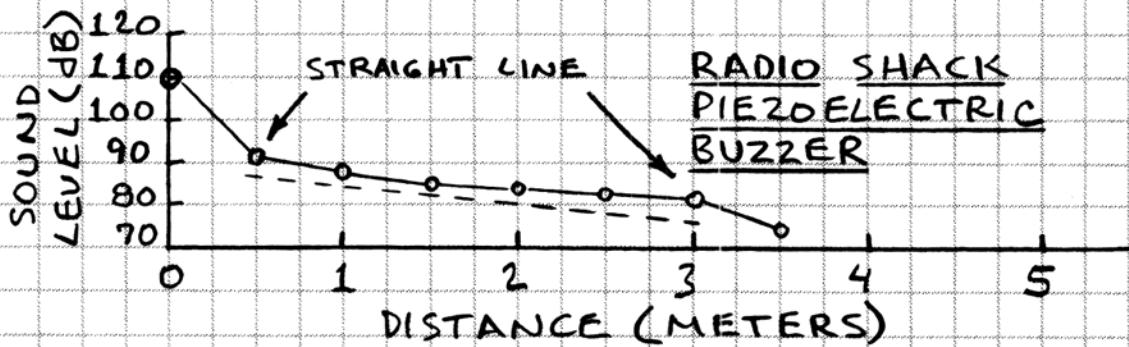


ADJUSTABLE FREQUENCY TONE



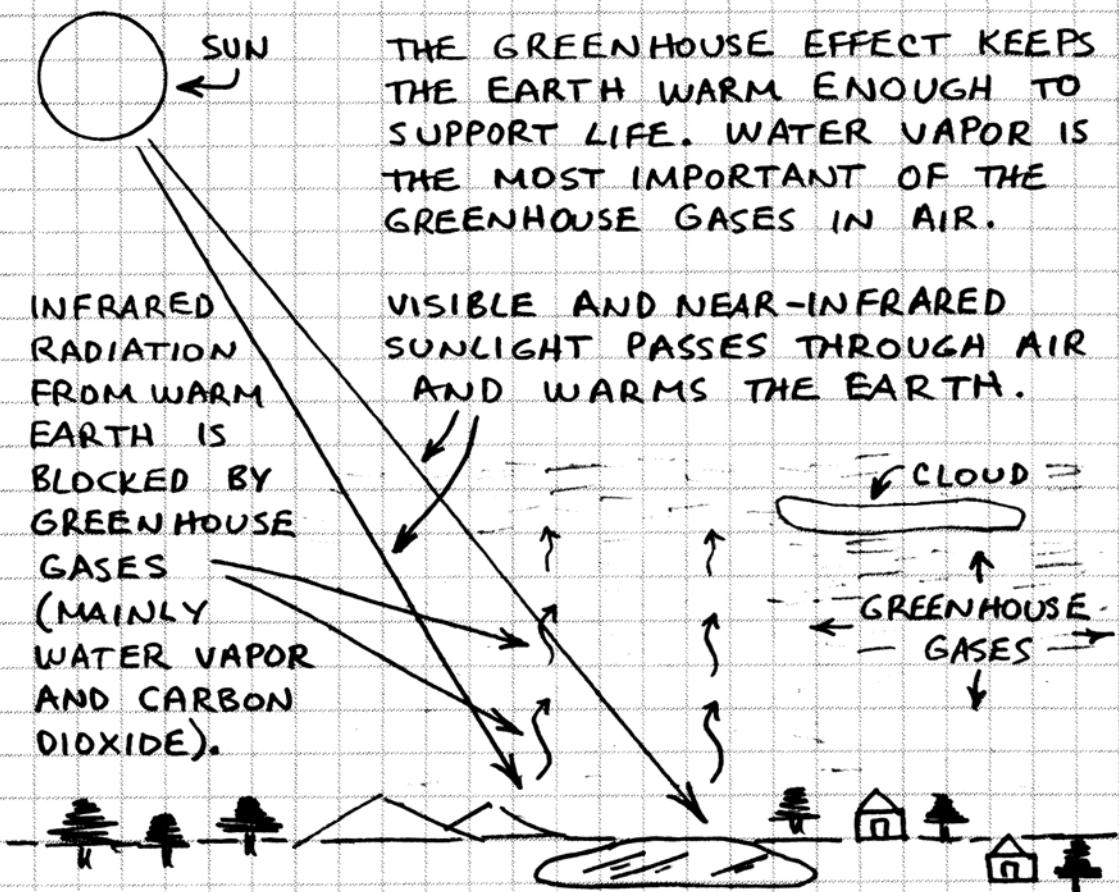
SOUND INTENSITY STUDIES

THE INTENSITY OF A SOUND IS INVERSELY PROPORTIONAL TO THE SQUARE OF THE DISTANCE TO THE SOURCE. THEREFORE A PLOT OF SOUND INTENSITY IN DECIBELS VS. DISTANCE TO THE SOURCE FORMS A STRAIGHT LINE.

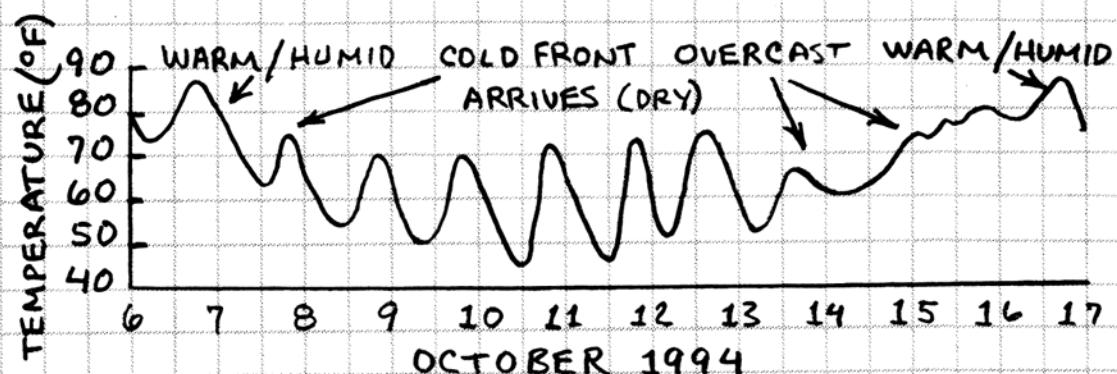


NOTE THAT STRAIGHT LINE BEGINS AWAY FROM SOURCE. TO ESTIMATE THE SOUND INTENSITY 10 METERS FROM A LOUD BUT DISTANT WATER FALL, JET, TRAIN, BAND, ETC., MAKE SEVERAL MEASUREMENTS AT DIFFERENT DISTANCES. PLOT THE DATA AND DRAW A LINE THROUGH THE POINTS. EXTEND THE LINE TO ESTIMATE THE INTENSITY OF THE SOUND NEARER ITS SOURCE.

THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT



THE ROLE OF WATER VAPOR IN THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT IS OBVIOUS TO ANYONE WHO VISITS HUMID AND DESERT OR MOUNTAIN REGIONS. WATER VAPOR IN HUMID REGIONS TRAPS INFRARED FROM THE WARM EARTH, thus keeping nights warm. THE DRY AIR OF DESERTS AND MOUNTAINS PERMITS INFRARED FROM THE EARTH TO BE RADIATED INTO SPACE, thus causing cool nights. CLOUDS ALSO PROVIDE A GREENHOUSE EFFECT. THIS PLOT OF TEMPERATURE AT MY TEXAS OFFICE SHOWS THE EFFECT OF WATER VAPOR AND CLOUDS:



WATER VAPOR

THE ATMOSPHERE ALWAYS INCLUDES SOME WATER VAPOR. AIR IS NOT A CONTAINER FOR WATER; WATER MOLECULES ARE PART OF THE AIR. WATER VAPOR CAN BE UP TO 4% OF WARM, TROPICAL AIR. COLD AIR IS MUCH DRIER, AND AT -40°C (-40°F) THE MAXIMUM PERCENTAGE OF WATER IN AIR CANNOT BE GREATER THAN ABOUT 0.02%.

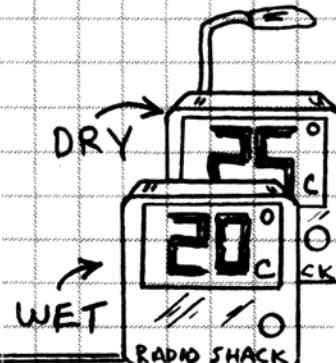
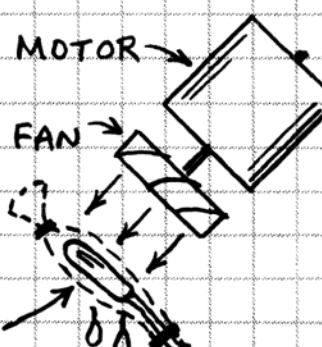
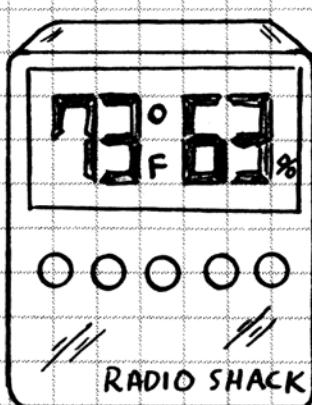
RELATIVE HUMIDITY

RELATIVE HUMIDITY IS THE RATIO OF THE ACTUAL TO THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE WATER VAPOR IN THE AIR AT A GIVEN TEMPERATURE. SINCE THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE WATER VAPOR IN WARM AIR IS MUCH HIGHER THAN THAT IN COLD AIR, RELATIVE HUMIDITY IS DEPENDENT ON TEMPERATURE. THUS THE RELATIVE HUMIDITY ON A COOL SPRING MORNING CAN BE 95% AND ONLY 50% LATER IN THE DAY, EVEN THOUGH THE TOTAL WATER VAPOR IN THE AIR HAS NOT CHANGED.

MEASURING RELATIVE HUMIDITY

USE A RELATIVE HUMIDITY METER OR USE TWO THERMOMETERS,

ONE WITH A WET SENSOR OR BULB. BLOW AIR PAST THE WET SENSOR FOR A MINUTE. THEN USE CHART ON FOLLOWING TWO PAGES TO FIND RELATIVE HUMIDITY.



WET GAUZE, FABRIC
OR HOLLOW SHOE LACE

RELATIVE HUMIDITY (%)

DRY BULB (°C) - WET BULB (°C)

	0.5	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.0
-5.0	88	77	66	54	43	32
-2.5	90	80	70	60	50	41
0.0	91	82	73	65	56	47
2.5	92	84	76	68	61	53
5.0	93	86	78	71	65	58
7.5	93	87	80	74	68	62
10.0	94	88	82	76	71	65
12.5	94	89	84	78	73	68
15.0	95	90	85	80	75	70
17.5	95	90	86	81	77	72
20.0	95	91	87	82	78	74
22.5	96	92	87	83	80	76
25.0	96	92	88	84	81	77
27.5	96	92	89	85	82	78
30.0	96	93	89	86	82	79
32.5	97	93	90	86	83	80
35.0	97	93	90	87	84	81
37.5	97	94	91	87	85	82
40.0	97	94	91	88	85	82

DRY BULB IS TEMPERATURE OF THE AIR.
WET BULB IS TEMPERATURE OF VENTILATED
 SENSOR WRAPPED IN MOIST CLOTH.

3.5 4.0 4.5 5.0 7.5 10.0 12.5 15.0 17.5

21 11 0

31 22 12 3

39 31 23 15

46 38 31 24

51 45 38 32

56 50 44 38

60 54 49 44

63 58 53 48

66 61 57 52

68 64 60 55

70 66 62 58

72 68 64 61

73 70 66 63

75 71 68 65

76 73 70 67

77 74 71 68

78 75 72 69

79 76 73 70

79 77 74 72

79 77 74 72

SOURCE:

"METEOROLOGY" BY
 J. MORAN AND M. MORGAN,
 MACMILLAN PUBLISHING
 CO., p. 560 (1989).

TO CONVERT °C
 1 TO °FAHRENHEIT:

$$^{\circ}\text{F} = (^{\circ}\text{C} \times 9/5) + 32$$

EXAMPLE:

DRY = 25 °C

WET = 20 °C

DRY - WET = 5 °C

RH = 63%

18 2

24 8

28 14

32 19

36 23

39 27

42 30

44 33

46 36

48 38

48 38

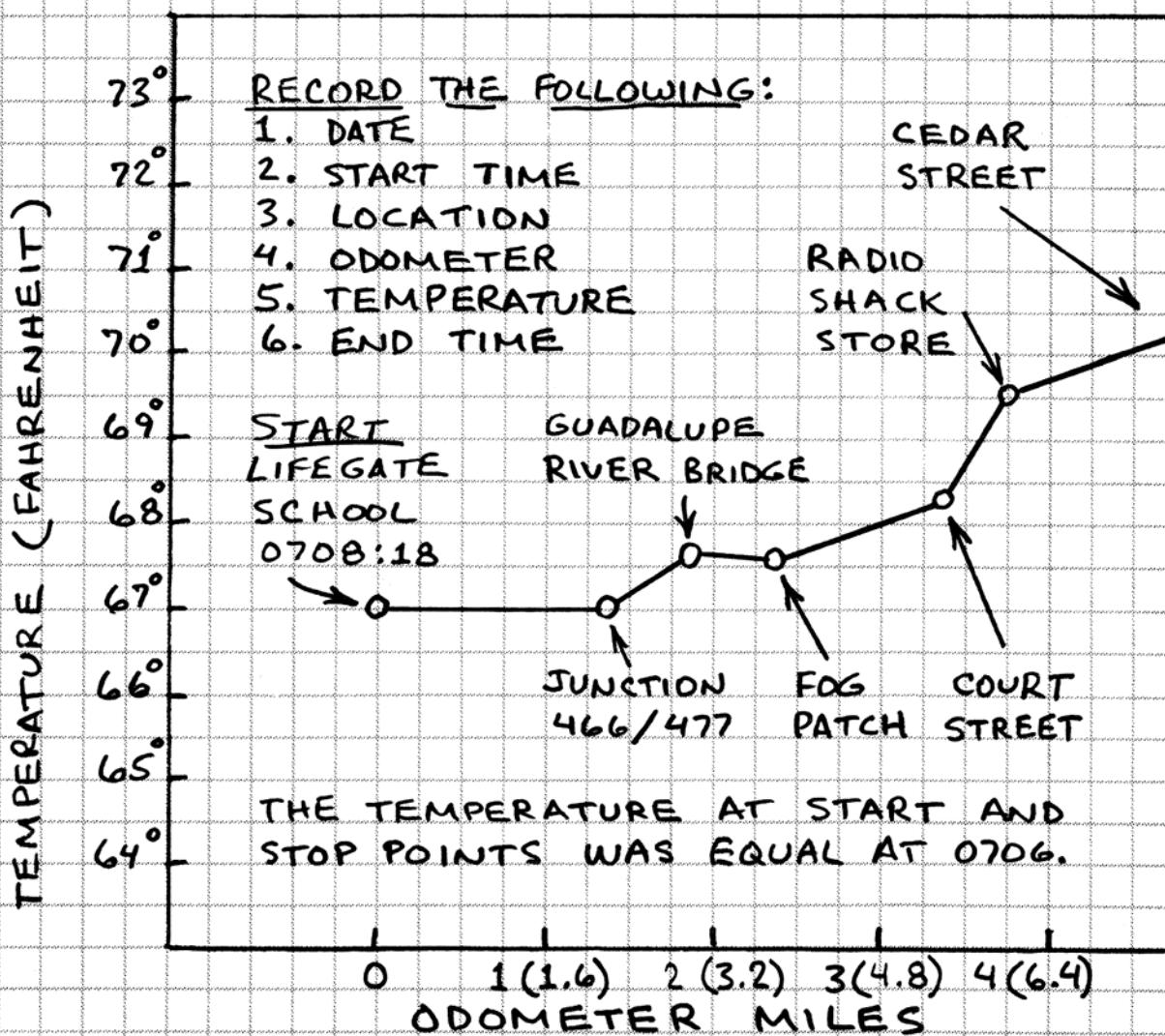
29 21

65

THE HEAT ISLAND EFFECT

TOWNS AND CITIES ARE SOMETIMES CALLED "HEAT ISLANDS" SINCE THEY ARE GENERALLY WARMER THAN THE NEARBY COUNTRYSIDE. YOU CAN EASILY MEASURE YOUR CITY'S HEAT ISLAND EFFECT WHILE DRIVING ACROSS TOWN. YOU WILL NEED:

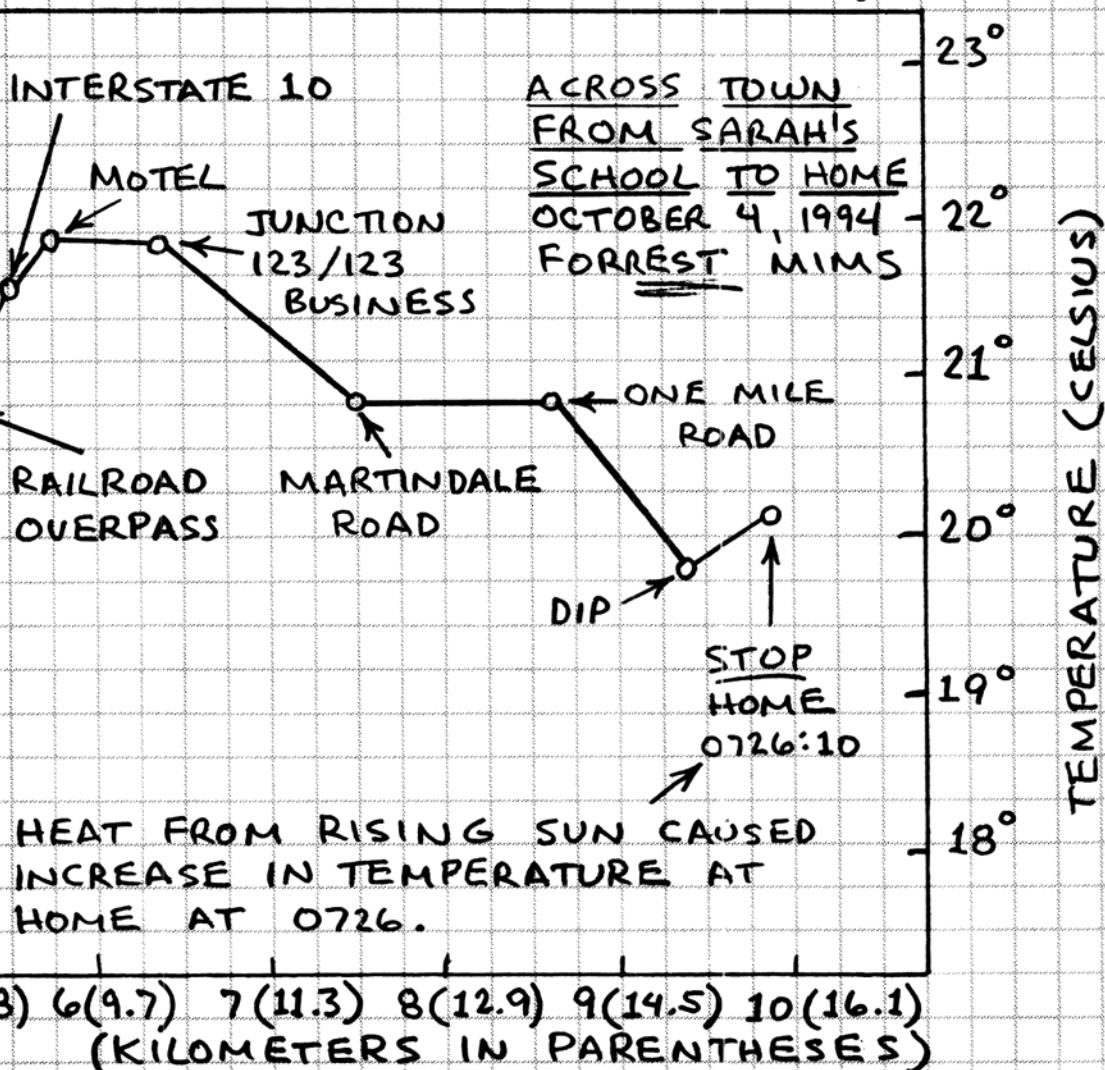
- A NOTEBOOK OR TAPE RECORDER TO RECORD YOUR MEASUREMENTS.
- A THERMOMETER. (DIGITAL TYPE WITH SENSOR ON A CABLE WORKS BEST.)
- A FRIEND OR RELATIVE TO DRIVE WHILE YOU RECORD DATA. CAUTION: DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DRIVE AND RECORD DATA!



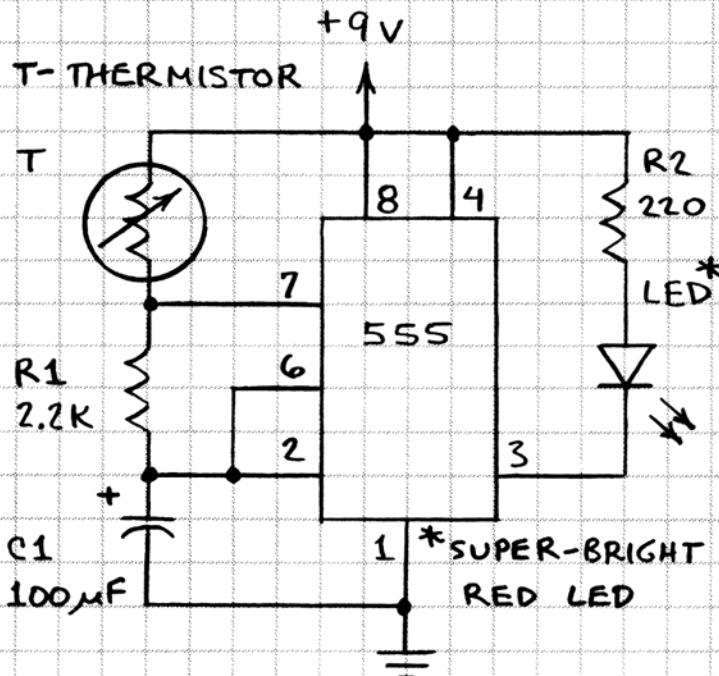
THE TEMPERATURE SENSOR MUST BE SHIELDED FROM SUNLIGHT AND KEPT AWAY FROM THE CAR'S ENGINE AND EXHAUST. MAKE HOLLOW TUBE FROM STIFF WHITE PAPER, TAPE TO SIDE MIRROR OR DOOR HANDLE WITH OPEN END FACING FORWARD. TAPE SENSOR INSIDE TUBE.

GOING FURTHER: MEASURE HEAT ISLAND EFFECT AT DIFFERENT TIMES OF DAY AND YEAR. IS THE EFFECT GREATER IN SUMMER OR WINTER? MORNING OR NIGHT? CAN YOU MEASURE THE HEAT ISLAND EFFECT OF LARGE PARKING LOTS HEATED BY THE SUN, FACTORIES, SUBDIVISIONS, ETC.?

GRAPH YOUR DATA — LIKE THIS ↴

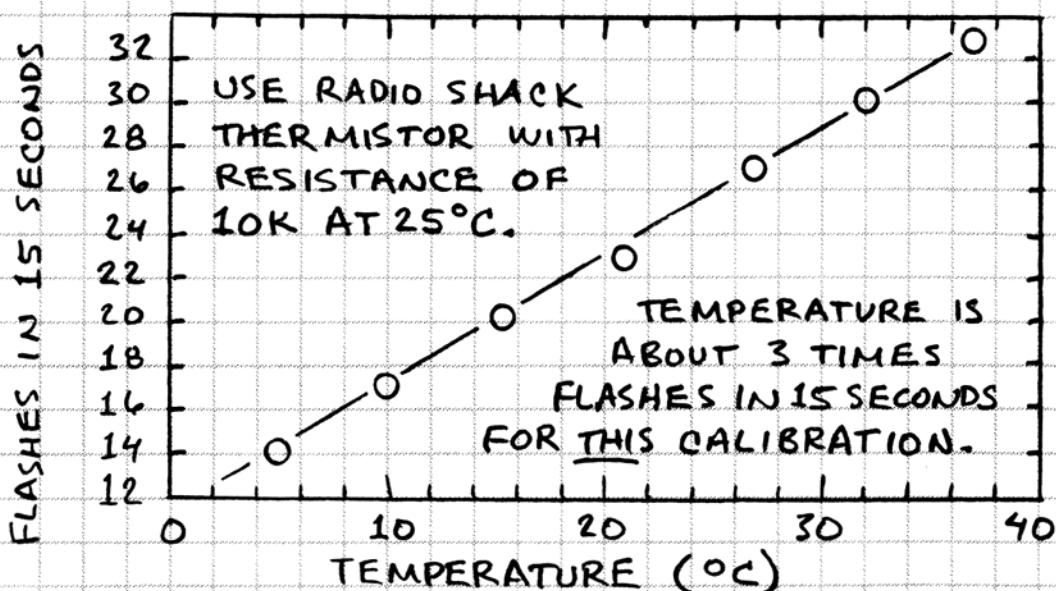


REMOTE TEMPERATURE TRANSMITTER



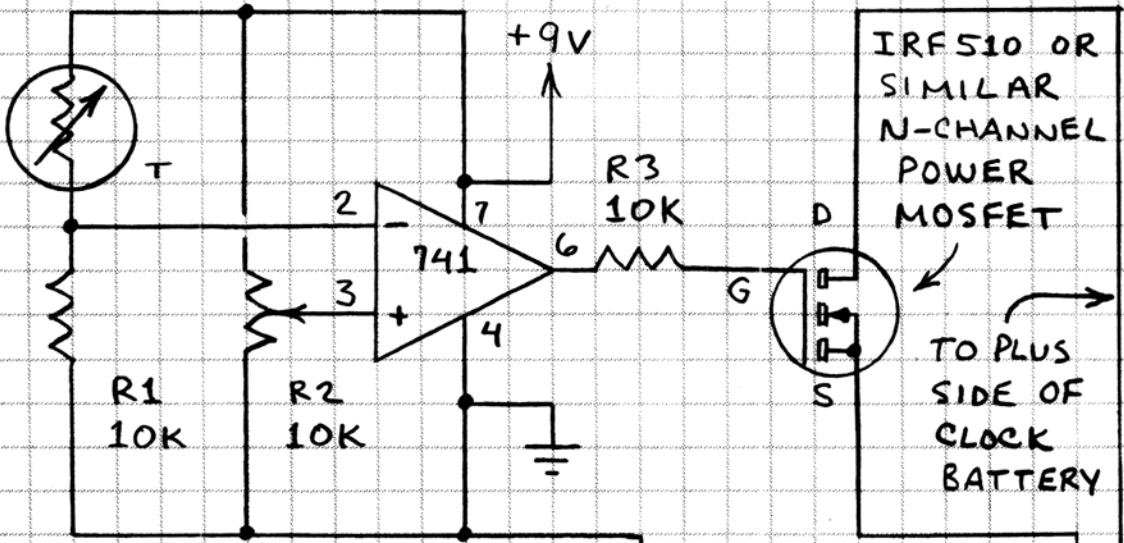
INSTALL THIS CIRCUIT IN A SMALL PLASTIC CASE. PLACE IN REMOTE SITE (TOP OF BUILDING, BRIDGE, HILL TOP, ETC.) AND POINT LED WHERE YOU PLAN TO BE. SECURE WITH TAPE OR BRACKET. CIRCUIT MUST BE IN SHADE.

THE LED EMITS FLASHES AT A RATE DETERMINED BY TEMPERATURE. FLASHES FROM A SUPER-BRIGHT LED CAN BE SEEN OVER A CONSIDERABLE RANGE, EVEN IN DAYLIGHT. USE BINOCULARS OR TELESCOPE TO INCREASE RANGE. TO CALIBRATE, INSULATE LEADS OF THERMISTOR WITH SILICONE SEALANT AND DIP IN ICE WATER. COUNT FLASHES IN 15 SECONDS AND READ WATER TEMPERATURE FROM THERMOMETER. ADD WARM WATER AND REPEAT THE MEASUREMENT PROCEDURE 5 OR MORE TIMES. PLOT DATA LIKE THIS:



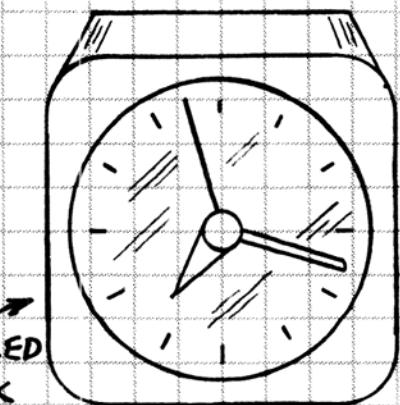
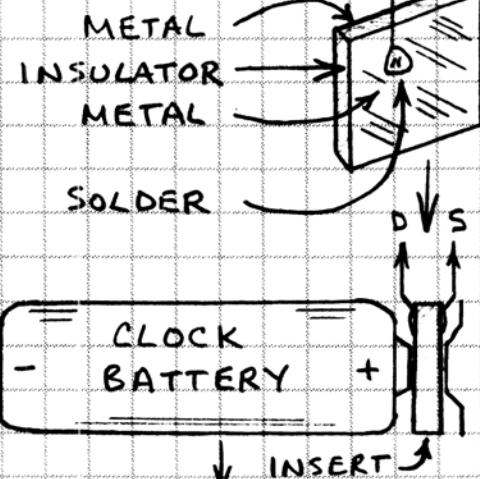
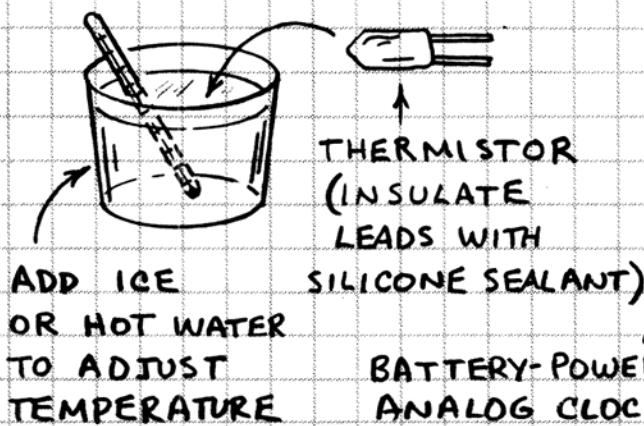
ABOVE-BELOW TEMPERATURE RECORDER

SOME FRUIT TREES REQUIRE A MINIMUM NUMBER OF HOURS WHEN THE TEMPERATURE IS BELOW FREEZING. THIS CIRCUIT RECORDS THE TIME THE TEMPERATURE IS BELOW 0°C (32°F) OR ANOTHER TEMPERATURE SELECTED BY R2.

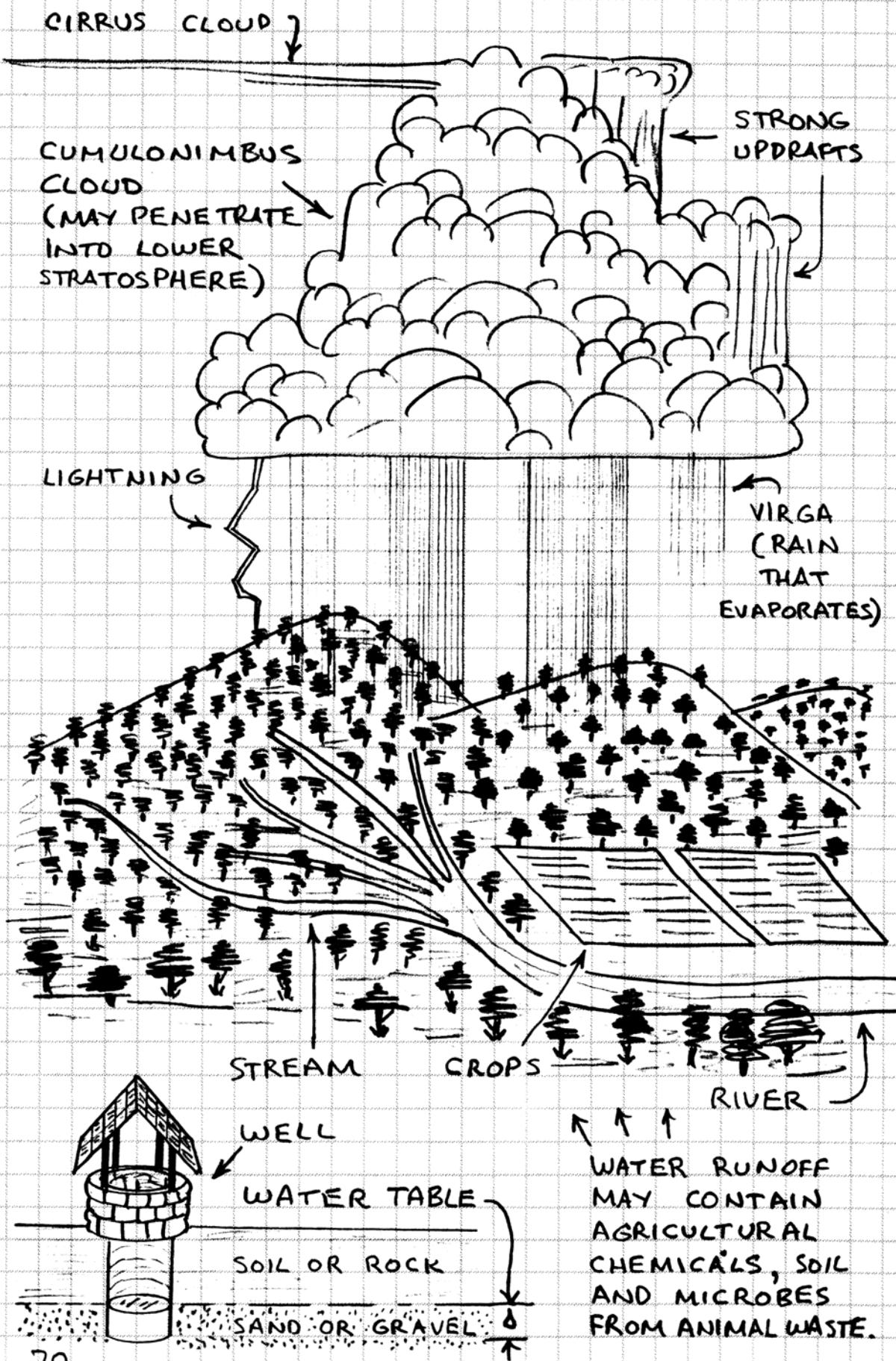


T = RADIO SHACK THERMISTOR

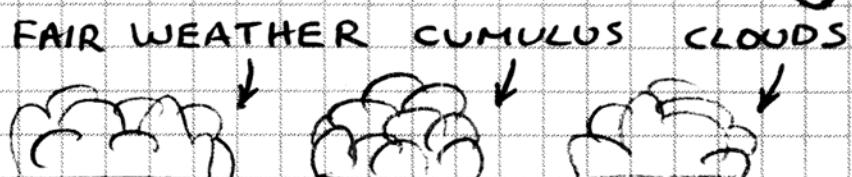
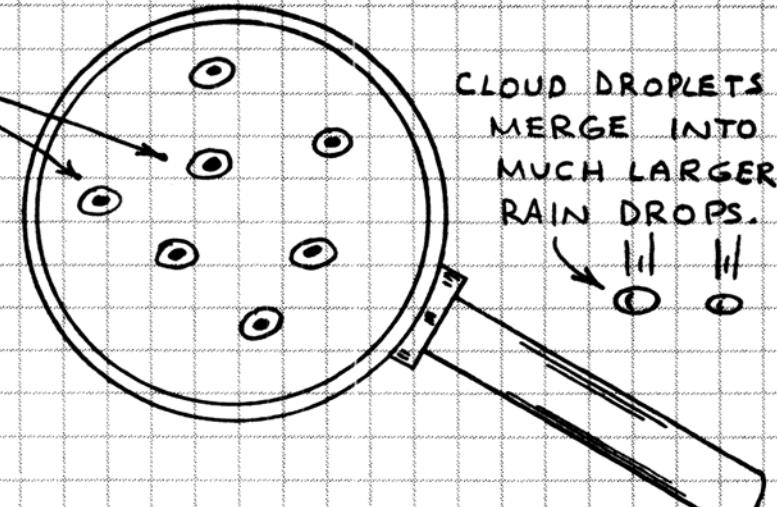
R2 CONTROLS TEMPERATURE LEVEL THAT ACTIVATES THE CLOCK. REVERSE CONNECTIONS TO PINS 2 AND 3 OF 741 TO RECORD TIME THAT TEMPERATURE EXCEEDS LEVEL SET BY R2.
TO CALIBRATE:



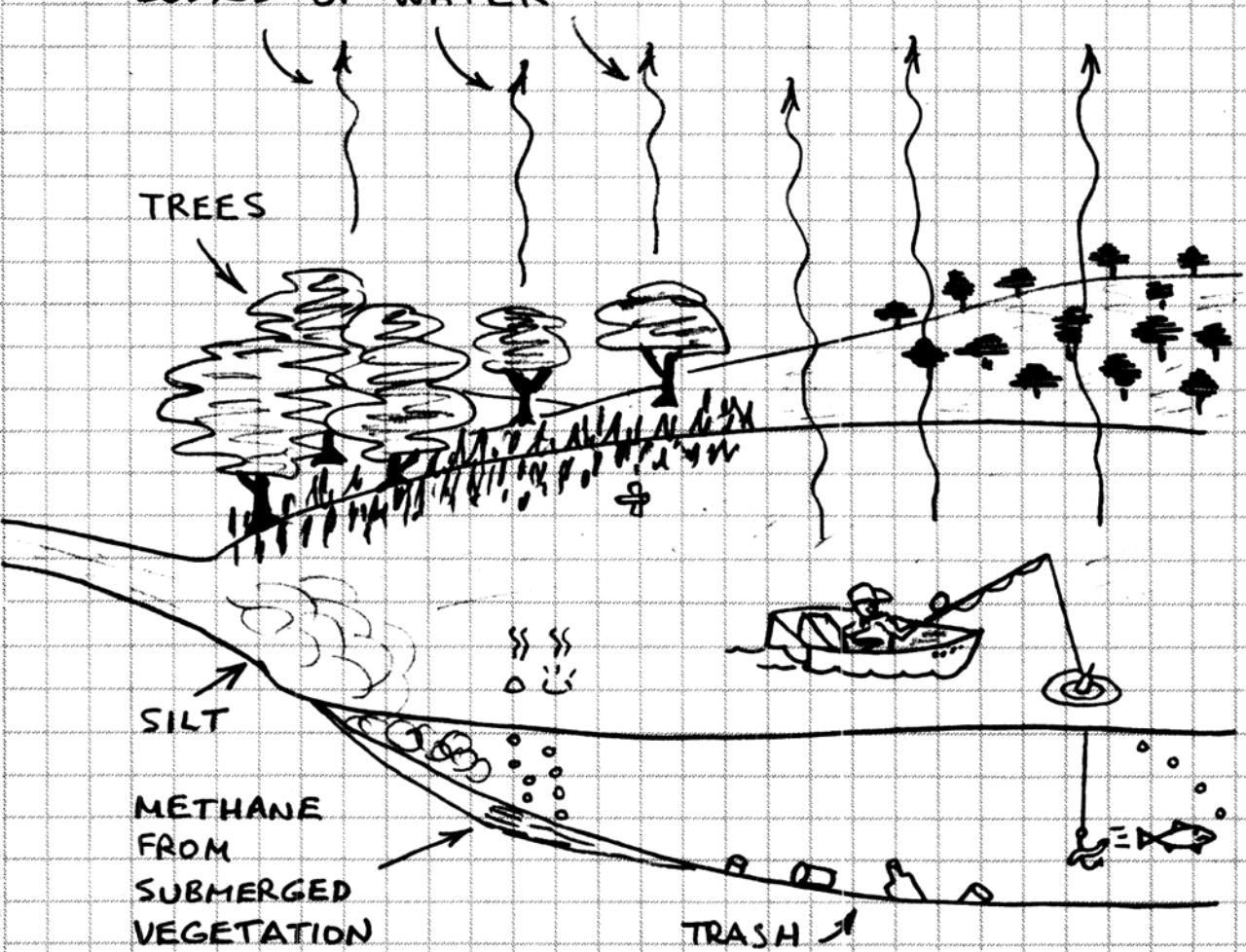
THE HYDROSPHERE



TINY CLOUD DROPLETS FORM WHEN WATER VAPOR CONDENSES ON TINY PARTICLES OF DUST, SALT, ETC. ALWAYS PRESENT IN THE AIR.

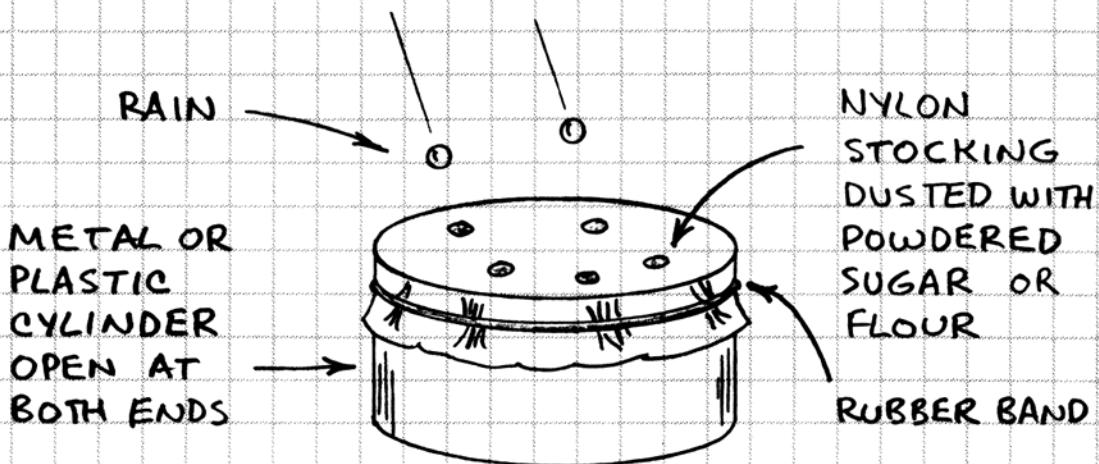


WATER VAPOR FROM PLANTS AND EVAPORATED FROM BODIES OF WATER



MEASURING RAIN DROPS

A TYPICAL RAIN DROP HAS A DIAMETER OF ABOUT 2 MILLIMETERS (0). DROPS CAN BE SMALLER OR LARGER. USE THIS INSTRUMENT TO STUDY THE SIZE OF RAIN DROPS:

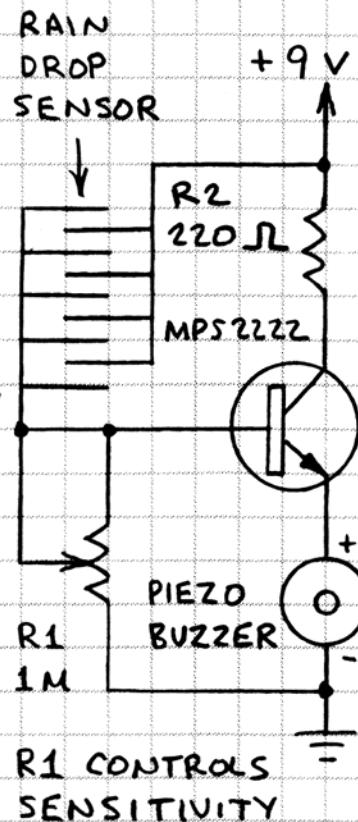
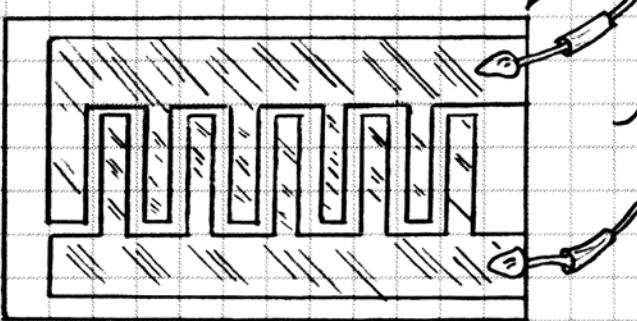


MEASURE AND RECORD DIAMETER OF INDIVIDUAL DROPS AND AVERAGE DIAMETER OF ALL DROPS.

RAIN DROP DETECTOR

THIS SIMPLE CIRCUIT WILL SOUND A TONE WHEN A RAIN DROP SPLASHES ON A SENSOR. THE SENSOR CAN BE ALUMINUM SCREEN MOUNTED JUST ABOVE A METAL PLATE (e.g. COPPER FOIL ON PC BOARD). OR MAKE A "COMB" SENSOR:

ETCHED CIRCUIT "COMB")



MEASURING RAIN FALL

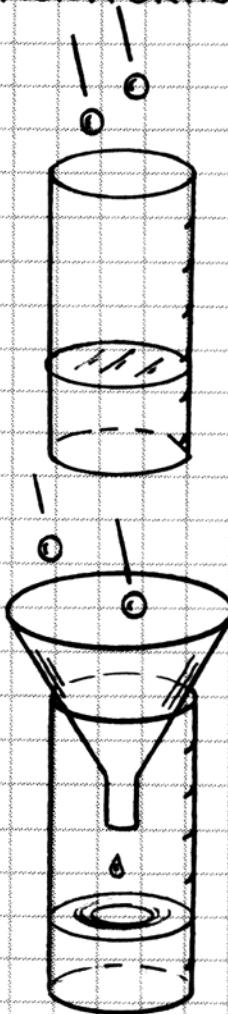
MEASURING THE AMOUNT OF RAIN AND SNOW IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING.

USE STORE-BOUGHT RAIN GAUGE OR MAKE YOUR OWN USING A CLEAR PLASTIC CYLINDER WITH A FLAT BOTTOM. PLACE GAUGE AWAY FROM TREES AND BUILDINGS. NOTE: WIND MAY REDUCE THE RAIN COLLECTED BY THE GAUGE BY UP TO 10 %.

ADD A FUNNEL TO INCREASE ACCURACY WHEN MEASURING SMALL AMOUNTS OF RAIN.

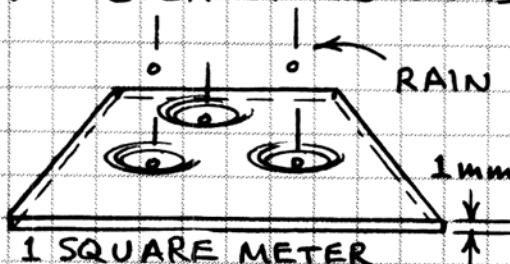
DIVIDE AREA OF LARGE END OF FUNNEL BY AREA OF INSIDE, OPEN END OF GAUGE TO GET CORRECTION FACTOR.

DIVIDE HEIGHT OF WATER IN GAUGE BY CORRECTION FACTOR TO GET ACTUAL RAIN FALL.



NUMBER OF RAIN DROPS

THE VOLUME OF A SPHERICAL RAIN DROP WITH A DIAMETER OF 2.5 mm IS 8.18 mm^3 ($V = \frac{4}{3} \pi r^3$).



VOLUME OF 1 SQUARE METER OF RAIN 1 mm DEEP IS $1,000,000 \text{ mm}^3$. THIS EQUALS 122,249 2.5 mm DROPS.

122,249 DROPS PER MILLIMETER OF RAIN PER SQUARE METER IS 122,249,000,000 DROPS PER SQUARE KILOMETER OR 316,623,456,459 DROPS PER SQUARE MILE !

DEW

DEW IS LIQUID WATER THAT CONDENSES ON COOL OBJECTS. UP TO 0.6 MM (0.02 INCH) OF DEW MAY CONDENSE ON EXPOSED OBJECTS AND PLANTS AT NIGHT.



DEW POINT

THE TEMPERATURE AT WHICH DEW BEGINS TO FORM IS THE DEW POINT. THE DEW POINT REVEALS MUCH ABOUT THE LOCAL WEATHER:

1. THE TEMPERATURE AT NIGHT USUALLY DOES NOT FALL BELOW THE DEW POINT.
2. A DEW POINT OF 20°C (68°F) OR HIGHER AND AN APPROACHING COLD FRONT MEANS THUNDERSTORMS ARE POSSIBLE.
3. EXPECT FOG IF THE PREDICTED LOW TEMPERATURE MATCHES THE DEW POINT.
4. A DEW POINT OF 20°C (68°F) OR HIGHER MEANS THE AIR IS UNCOMFORTABLY HUMID.
5. WHEN THE DEW POINT IS BELOW FREEZING, FROST MAY FORM ON EXPOSED SURFACES.
6. DEW THAT FREEZES FORMS A GLAZE OF ICE.

MEASURING DEW POINT

IF YOU MAKE A WET/DRY RELATIVE HUMIDITY INSTRUMENT (HYGROMETER, SEE P.15), THE DEW POINT IS APPROXIMATELY:

$$D.P. = (5T_{WET} - 2T_{DRY}) / 3 \quad (\text{°CELSIUS})$$

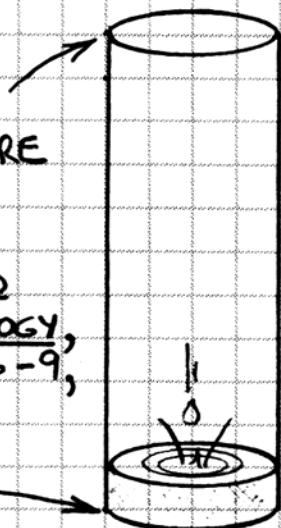
T IS TEMPERATURE. FORMULA FROM "CLIMATE DATA AND RESOURCES" BY E. LINACRE (ROUTLEDGE, 1992).

PRECIPITABLE WATER

TOP OF ATMOSPHERE

* JOURNAL OF APPLIED METEOROLOGY, VOL. 2, 776-9, 1963.

EARTH



CONDENSING THE WATER VAPOR IN A COLUMN THROUGH THE ATMOSPHERE YIELDS THE PRECIPITABLE WATER. C. H. REITAN* HAS DEVISED A FORMULA THAT ESTIMATES THE PRECIPITABLE WATER:

$$\ln W = (0.061 \times D.P.) - 0.11$$

$\ln W$ IS NATURAL LOG OF PRECIPITABLE WATER (CM). D.P. IS DEW POINT ($^{\circ}\text{C}$).

CLOUD HEIGHT

CUMULUS CLOUDS FORM WHEN WARM, HUMID AIR RISES TO WHERE THE AIR TEMPERATURE FALLS BELOW THE DEW POINT. KNOWING THAT AIR TEMPERATURE FALLS ABOUT 2.77°C (5.5°F) PER 0.3 KILOMETER (1,000 FEET), LESLIE TROWBRIDGE* DERIVED THIS FORMULA FOR ESTIMATING THE HEIGHT OF THE BASE OF A CUMULUS CLOUD:

$$\text{HEIGHT (FEET)} = 227 \times (T - D.P.)$$

T = GROUND TEMPERATURE ($^{\circ}\text{F}$)

$D.P.$ = DEW POINT ($^{\circ}\text{F}$)

DESCENDING, COOL AIR

SUNLIGHT WARM THE EARTH. COLUMNS OF WARM, MOIST AIR THEN RISE IN THE SKY.

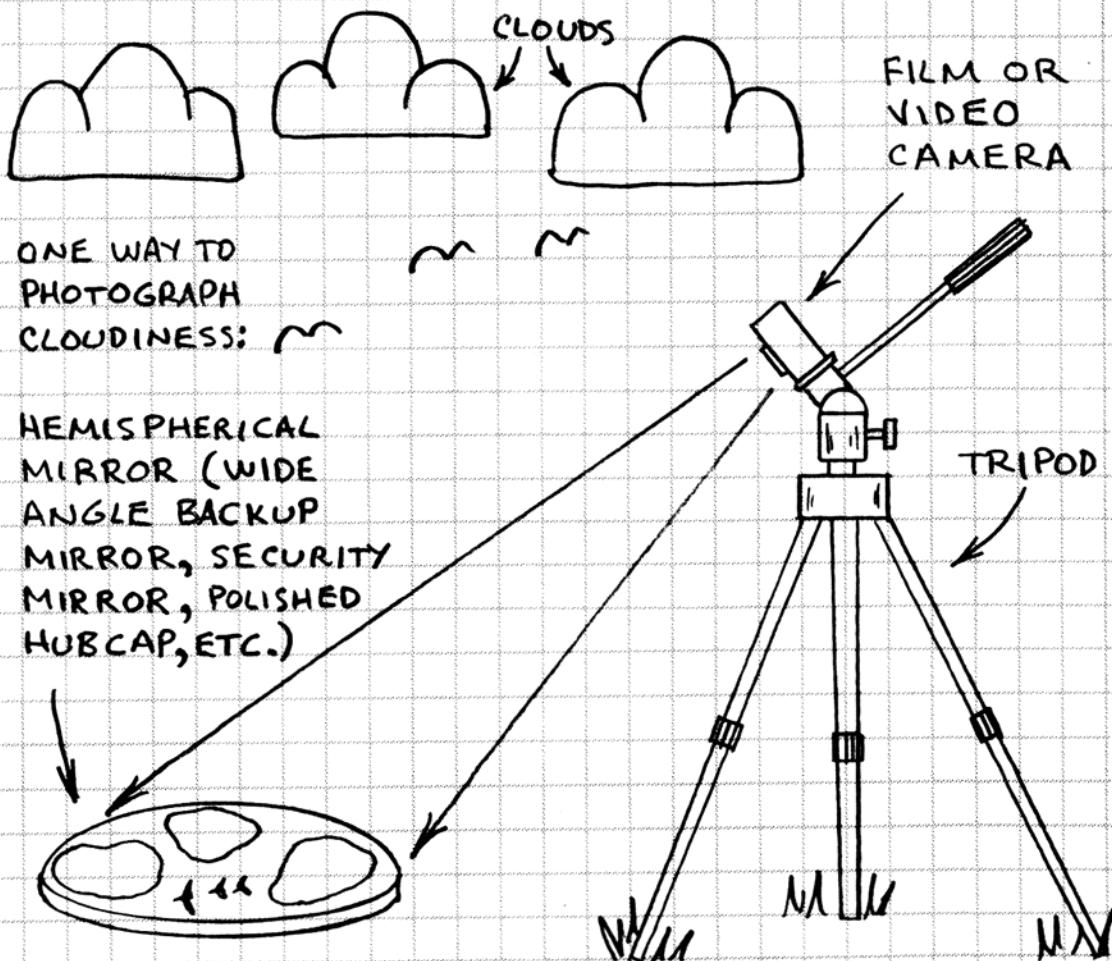
* "EXPERIMENTS IN METEOROLOGY," DOUBLEDAY, P. 239, 1974.

MEASURING CLOUDINESS

THE TEMPERATURE OF EARTH IS REGULATED IN PART BY CLOUDS. WARM AIR CAN CONTAIN MORE WATER VAPOR, HENCE MORE CLOUDS. THE CLOUDS REFLECT SUN LIGHT BACK INTO SPACE, THUS COOLING THE EARTH. RECORDING THE FRACTION OF THE SKY COVERED BY CLOUDS CAN PROVIDE IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE EFFECT OF CLOUDS ON CLIMATE. THE FRACTION OF SKY COVERED BY CLOUDS IS MEASURED IN TENTHS OR OCTAS (EIGHTHS):

0 TENTHS OR 0 OCTAS = CLOUD-FREE SKY
5 TENTHS OR 4 OCTAS = 50% CLOUDINESS
10 TENTHS OR 8 OCTAS = OVERCAST SKY

ESTIMATE CLOUDINESS IN EACH QUADRANT OF THE COMPASS. AVERAGE THE 4 ESTIMATES TO GET THE OVERALL CLOUDINESS.



STUDYING LIGHTNING

THE AIR IN THE PATH OF A LIGHTNING BOLT IS HEATED ALMOST INSTANTLY TO $30,000^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($54,000^{\circ}\text{F}$). THE PRESSURE OF THIS AIR CAN BE 10 TO 100 TIMES THE PRESSURE AT SEA LEVEL. THE RESULTING SHOCK WAVES CAUSES THE SOUND HEARD AS THUNDER.

YOU CAN USE A DIGITAL STOP WATCH TO MEASURE DISTANCE BETWEEN YOU AND A LIGHTNING BOLT AND TO ESTIMATE THE TOTAL LENGTH OF LIGHTNING BOLTS.

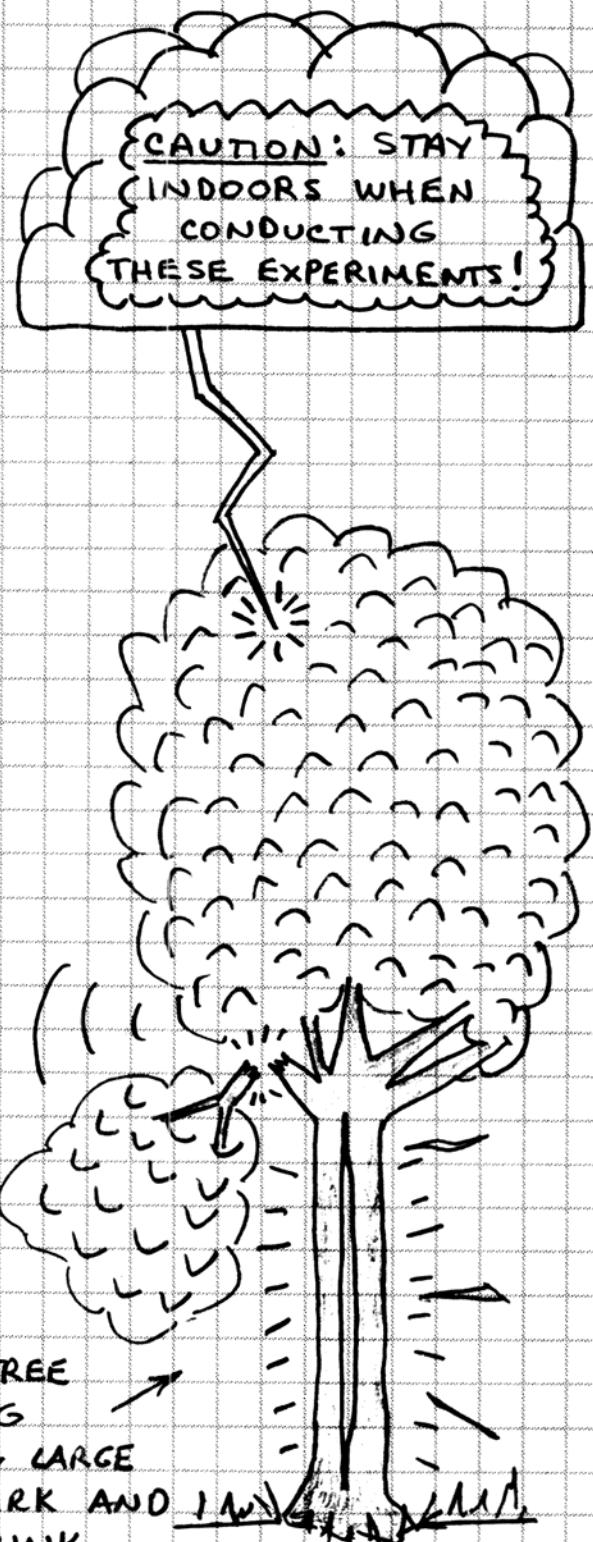
DISTANCE TO BOLT:

START STOPWATCH WHEN YOU SEE FLASH AND STOP WHEN YOU HEAR THUNDER. DISTANCE IS ELAPSED SECONDS TIMES 1125 (FEET) OR 343 (METERS).

LENGTH OF BOLT:

START STOPWATCH WHEN YOU FIRST HEAR THUNDER AND STOP WHEN THUNDER ENDS. MINIMUM LENGTH OF THE BOLT IS ELAPSED SECONDS TIMES 1.86 (MILES) OR 3 (KILOMETERS). SEE "THUNDER" BY A. FEW, SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, JULY 1975.

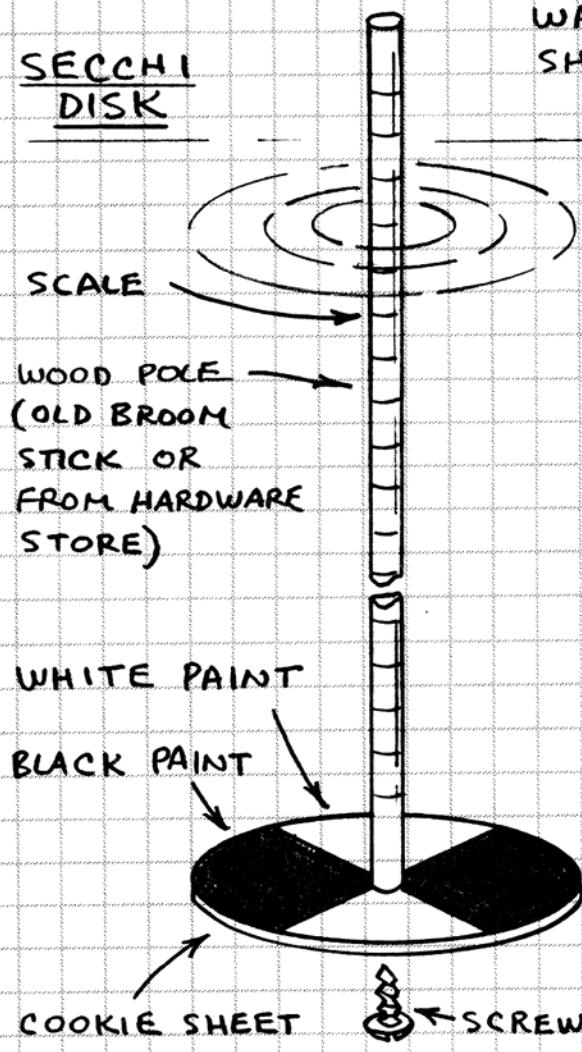
LIGHTNING STRUCK ELM TREE NEAR MY BARN, SPLITTING TRUNK IN HALF, BREAKING LARGE BRANCH AND BLOWING BARK AND LARGE SPLINTERS FROM TRUNK.



WATER TURBIDITY

SUSPENDED PARTICLES, LIQUID CONTAMINANTS AND WATER MOLECULES ALL ABSORB OR SCATTER LIGHT PASSING THROUGH WATER. THE SECCHI DISK PROVIDES A SIMPLE, TIME-TESTED MEANS FOR MEASURING WATER CLARITY.

SECCHI
DISK



WATER SURFACE
SHOULD BE SMOOTH



SUBMERGE DISK
UNTIL IT DISAPPEARS.
PULL DISK UP UNTIL
IT IS JUST VISIBLE
AND RECORD DEPTH.

POLARIZED SUNGLASSES
WILL BLOCK REFLECTIONS
FROM SURFACE OF WATER.

FOR DEEPER WATER
REPLACE POLE WITH
CORD. USE FELT
TIP MARKER TO ADD
SCALE TO CORD.
IF NECESSARY, ADD
WEIGHT TO BOTTOM
OF DISK (STEEL
WASHERS OR LEAD
FISHING WEIGHTS).

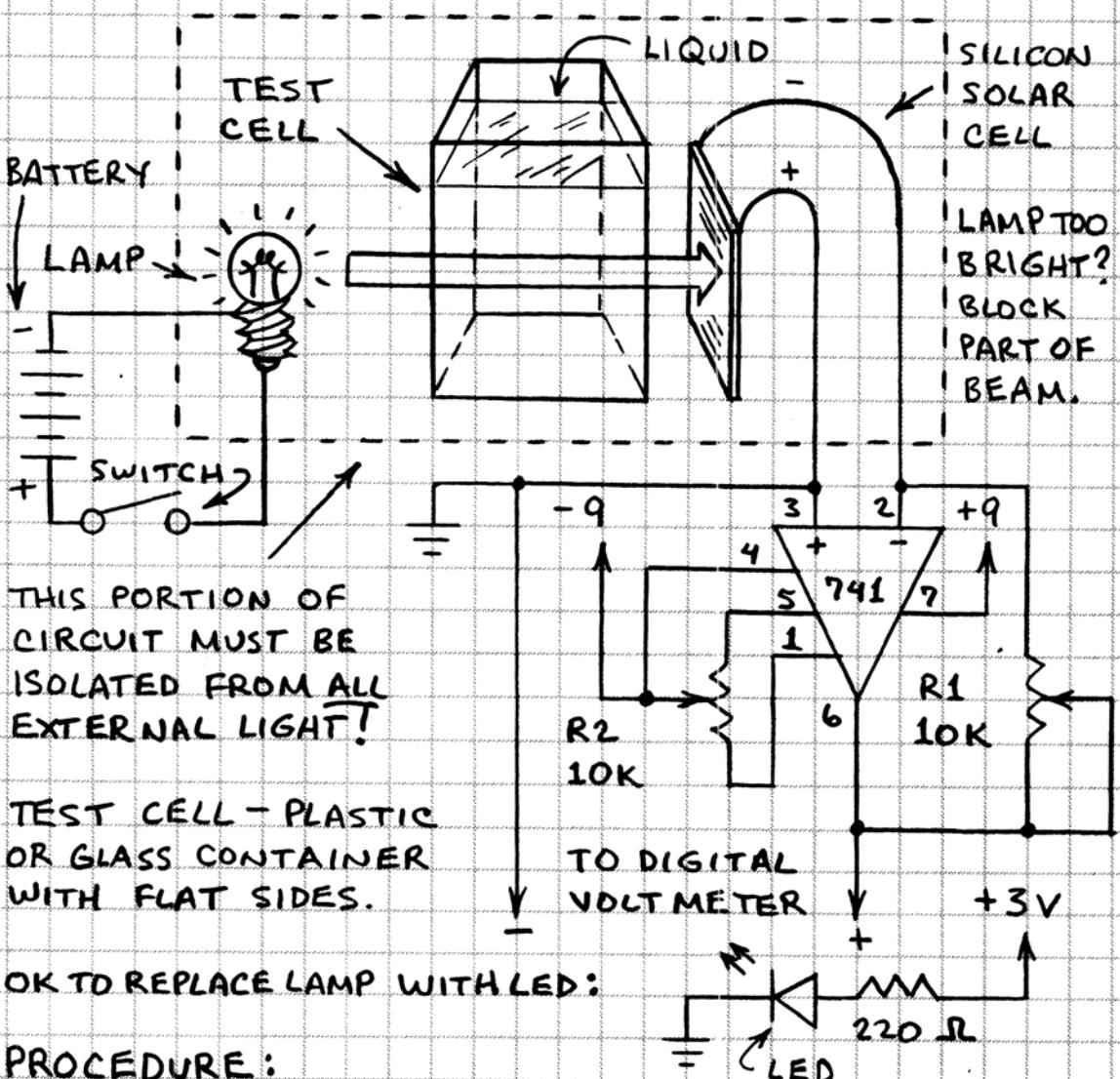
WATER VISIBILITY RECORD
ON JUNE 27, 1676, ON
THE SEA EAST OF NOVAYA
ZEMLYA, CAPTAIN JOHN
WOOD OBSERVED SHELLS
ON THE BOTTOM "IN 80
FATHOMS WATER, WHICH
IS 480 FEET...." (EOS,
MARCH 1, 1994, P. 99.)

USE CAUTION WITH
SECCHI DISK!



ELECTRONIC TURBIDIMETER

THIS CIRCUIT MEASURES THE CLARITY OF A LIQUID WITH RESPECT TO THAT OF CLEAR WATER.



FOR MORE SENSITIVITY, INCREASE ± 9 VOLTS TO ± 12 VOLTS AND ADJUST R1 TO GIVE 8-10 VOLTS OUT WITH CLEAN WATER IN TEST CELL.

TESTING WATER

WATER IS SOMETIMES DESCRIBED AS THE UNIVERSAL SOLVENT. YOU CAN EASILY MEASURE THE CONCENTRATION OF VARIOUS IMPURITIES IN WATER USING TEST KITS FROM AQUARIUM SUPPLY STORES AND RADIO SHACK.

IMPORTANT TESTS:

HARDNESS - CAUSED BY DISSOLVED MINERALS.

AMMONIA - A WASTE PRODUCT OF BACTERIA.

NITRATE - INGREDIENT OF CROP FERTILIZER.

NITRITE - IMPAIRS ABILITY OF BLOOD TO CARRY OXYGEN.

CHLORINE - DISINFECTANT OFTEN ADDED TO WATER.

PH - CONCENTRATION OF HYDROGEN IONS.

THE PH SCALE

AN INCREASE
OF 1 PH IS AN
INCREASE OF
10 TIMES THE
NUMBER OF
HYDROGEN IONS.

RAIN WATER
FALLING
THROUGH
UNPOLLUTED
AIR HAS A PH
OF ABOUT 5.6.

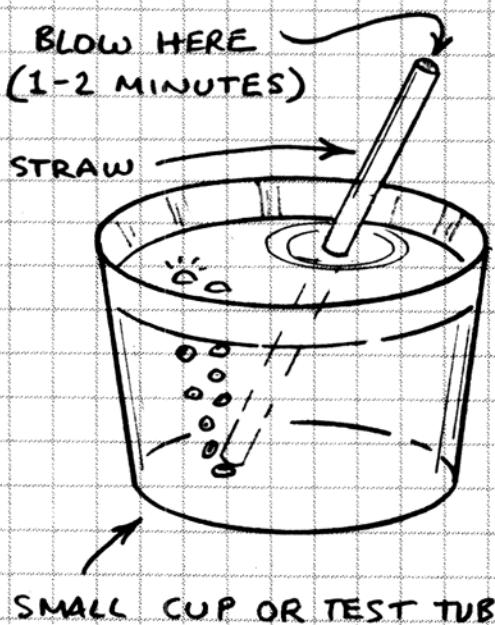
↑
HIGH
(ALKALINE)
|
NEUTRAL
|
LOW
(ACID)
↓

14	- LYE
13	- BLEACH
12	
11	- AMMONIA
10	
9	- BAKING SODA
8	- SEA WATER
7	- DISTILLED WATER
6	- MILK
5	- MANY FOODS
4	- ORANGE JUICE
3	- VINEGAR
2	- LEMON JUICE
1	
0	- BATTERY ACID

DO-IT-YOURSELF PH INDICATOR - LIQUIFY PURPLE CABBAGE IN A BLENDER. THE PURPLE JUICE WILL CHANGE COLOR AS PH CHANGES. DILUTE TO USE.

WATER AND CARBON DIOXIDE

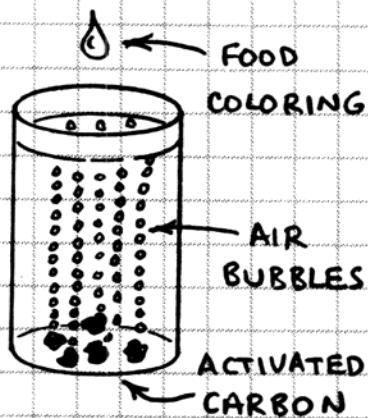
WATER READILY ABSORBS CARBON DIOXIDE (CO_2), WHICH MAKES POSSIBLE CARBONATED BEVERAGES. MUCH OF THE CO_2 IN THE AIR IS ABSORBED BY THE OCEAN. RAIN ABSORBS CO_2 , WHICH FORMS CARBONIC ACID AND CAUSES RAIN FALLING THROUGH CLEAN AIR TO BE MILDLY ACIDIC.



TO DEMONSTRATE ABSORPTION OF CO_2 IN WATER, BLOW BUBBLES THROUGH SMALL CUP OF WATER. USE pH INDICATOR DROPS OR PAPER TO MEASURE pH OF THE WATER BEFORE AND AFTER BLOWING. I MEASURED CHANGE IN pH FROM 6.2 TO 6.0 AFTER BLOWING 2 MINUTES INTO TEST TUBE.

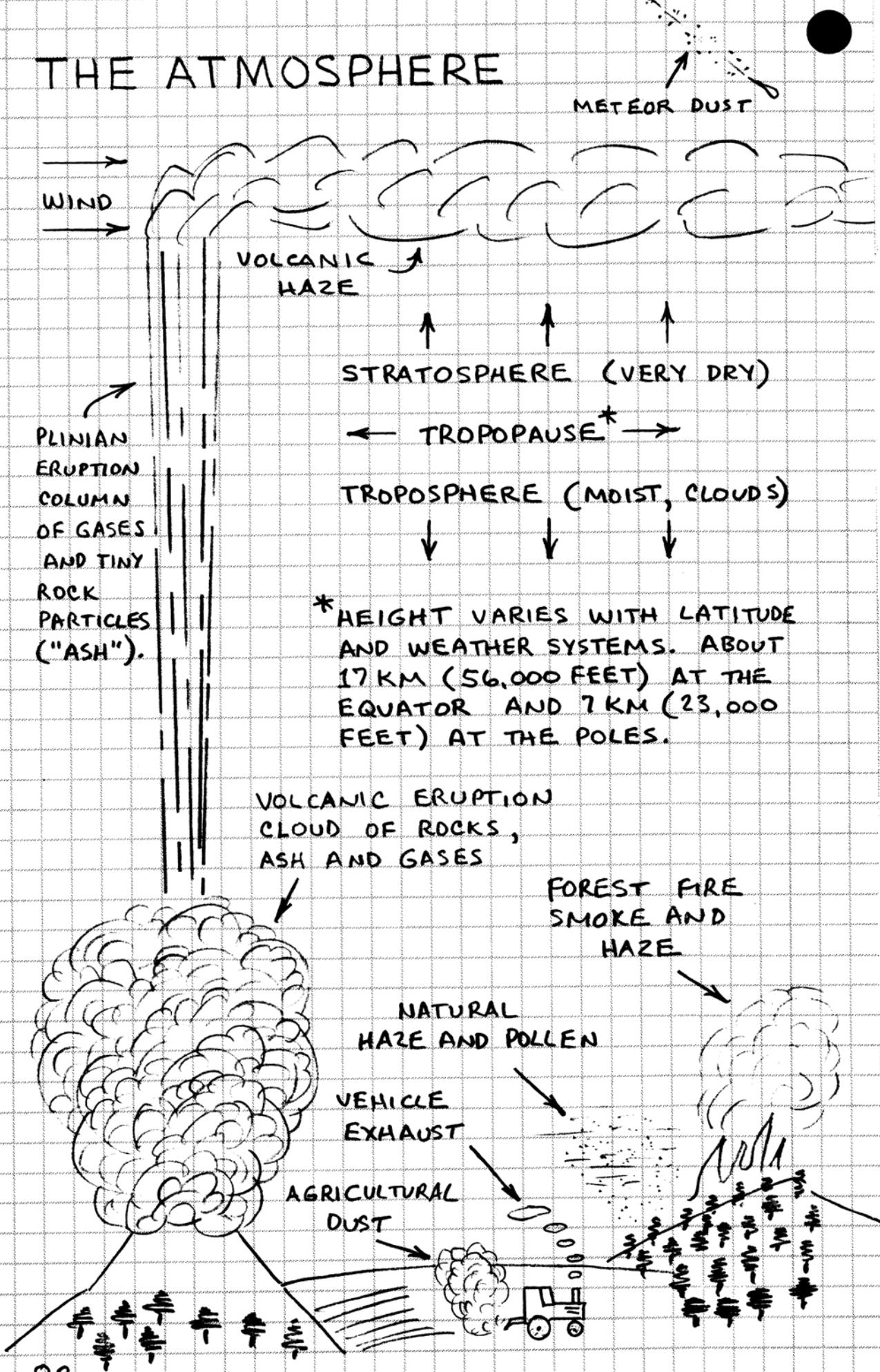
ACTIVATED CARBON AND WATER

ACTIVATED CARBON IS A HIGHLY POROUS FORM OF CHARCOAL. IT IS WIDELY USED TO REMOVE IMPURITIES FROM DRINKING WATER AND WATER IN AQUARIUMS. ACTIVATED CARBON IS SOLD BY AQUARIUM STORES. THIS SIMPLE DEMONSTRATION SHOWS ITS ABILITY TO FILTER WATER.

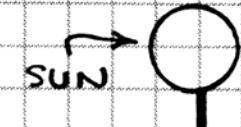


ADD ACTIVATED CARBON TO WATER AND IT WILL FIZZ AS TINY AIR BUBBLES ARE RELEASED. ADD A DROP OF FOOD COLORING, CAP THE CONTAINER AND SHAKE VIGOROUSLY. WATER WILL BECOME CLEAR AS CARBON ABSORBS THE COLORED DYE.

THE ATMOSPHERE



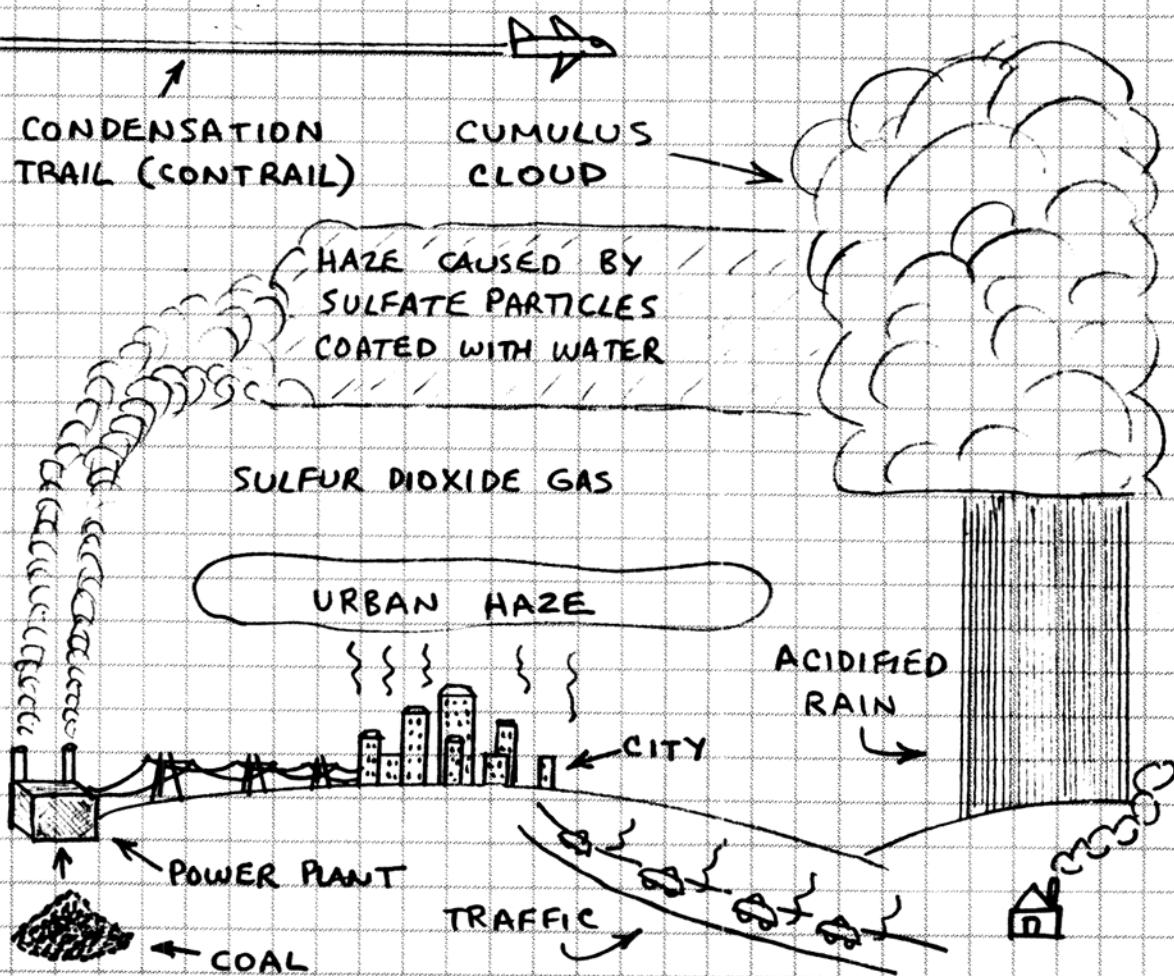
THE OZONE LAYER INCLUDES ABOUT 90% OF THE TOTAL OZONE. THE REMAINDER IS IN THE TROPOSPHERE.



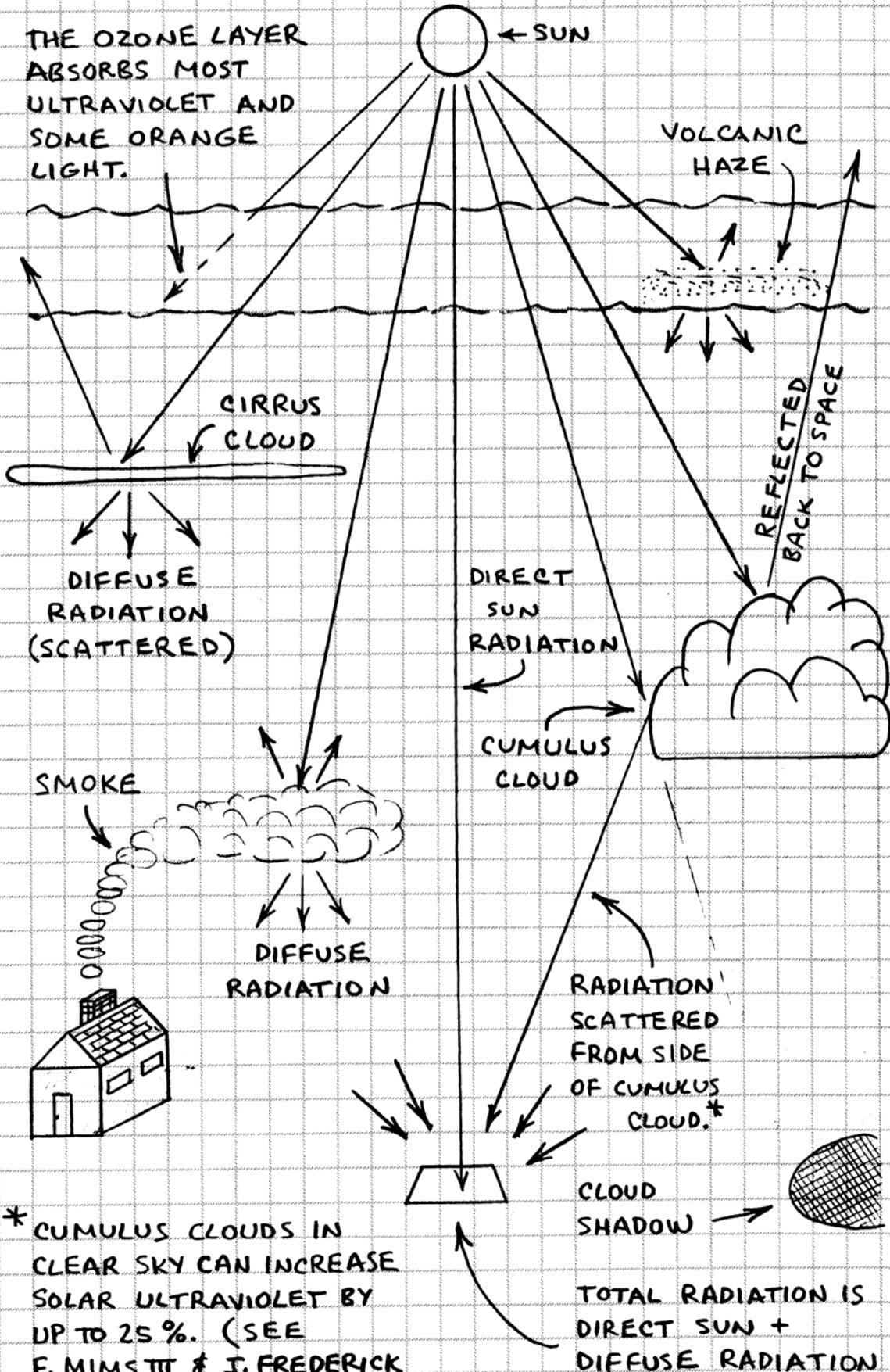
OZONE LAYER ABSORBS MOST OF THE SUN'S ULTRAVIOLET RADIATION. VOLCANIC HAZE AND BOTH NATURAL AND ANTHROPOGENIC* GASES CAN DESTROY OZONE. *MAN MADE

OZONE LAYER IS 15-35 KM (49-115,000 FEET).

ATMOSPHERIC CONTENTS: 78% NITROGEN, 21% OXYGEN, 1% ARGON PLUS A DOSE OF WATER VAPOR, OZONE, CARBON DIOXIDE, METHANE, CARBON MONOXIDE, SULFUR DIOXIDE, SMOKE, DUST, SPIDER WEBS, POLLEN, INSECTS, BACTERIA AND DOZENS OF OTHER GASES AND PARTICLES.



THE SOLAR RADIATION BUDGET



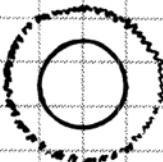
HAZE AND SOLAR RADIATION

NATURAL HAZE IS CAUSED BY SMOKE FROM FOREST FIRES, WATER VAPOR FOG, VERY THIN OVERCAST CIRRUS OR STRATUS CLOUDS, DUST, SEA SALT AND PHOTOCHEMICAL REACTIONS OF SUNLIGHT AND VARIOUS GASES EMITTED BY PLANTS.

ANTHROPOGENIC HAZE, A BY PRODUCT OF HUMAN ACTIVITY, IS CAUSED BY EMISSIONS FROM COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS, FIREPLACE SMOKE, CONTRAILS FROM HIGH ALTITUDE AIRCRAFT (WHICH CAN COVER MUCH OF THE SKY) AND PHOTOCHEMICAL REACTIONS OF SUNLIGHT AND GASES EMITTED BY INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINES. ANTHROPOGENIC HAZE IS ESPECIALLY BAD OVER THE EASTERN PORTIONS OF EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES.



NO HAZE: SUN IS BRILLIANT DISK IN DEEP BLUE SKY. CLOUDS STAND OUT.



SOME HAZE: SUN SURROUNDED BY BRIGHT GLOW (CIRCUMSOLAR RADIATION). CLOUDS NEAR HORIZON DIFFICULT TO RESOLVE.



CONSIDERABLE HAZE: SUN DIM. ENTIRE SKY PALE, MILKY BLUE. CLOUDS BLEND INTO HAZE AND DIFFICULT TO SEE.

HAZE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCES DIRECT RADIATION, SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASES DIFFUSE RADIATION AND SLIGHTLY REDUCES TOTAL RADIATION.

HAZE SCATTERS SOME RADIATION BACK INTO SPACE, THUS CAUSING A COOLING EFFECT.

HAZE GREATLY INCREASES DIFFUSE RADIATION ON PLANTS AND ANIMALS SHADED FROM DIRECT SUN. DURING SUMMER OF 1994, I FOUND THAT A PERSON SHADED FROM DIRECT SUN BY A SMALL UMBRELLA CAN RECEIVE 30% OR MORE SOLAR ULTRAVIOLET AT A HAZY SITE NEAR SEA LEVEL THAN AT THE TOP OF PIKES PEAK (ELEVATION: 4,301 METERS OR 14,110 FEET).

ATMOSPHERIC OPTICAL THICKNESS

ATMOSPHERIC OPTICAL THICKNESS (AOT) IS A MEASURE OF THE CLARITY OF THE AIR IN A VERTICAL COLUMN THROUGH THE ATMOSPHERE.

AOT INDICATES THE AMOUNT OF HAZE, SMOG, SMOKE, DUST AND VOLCANIC AEROSOLS IN THE ATMOSPHERE. A SMALL AOT INDICATES A CLEAN ATMOSPHERE.

YOU CAN MEASURE AOT WITH A SUN PHOTOMETER LIKE THE ONE ON PAGE 39 AND A CALCULATOR WITH A \ln (NATURAL LOGARITHM) KEY. A SIMPLIFIED FORMULA FOR AOT IS:

$$AOT = (\ln I_0 / \ln I) / m$$

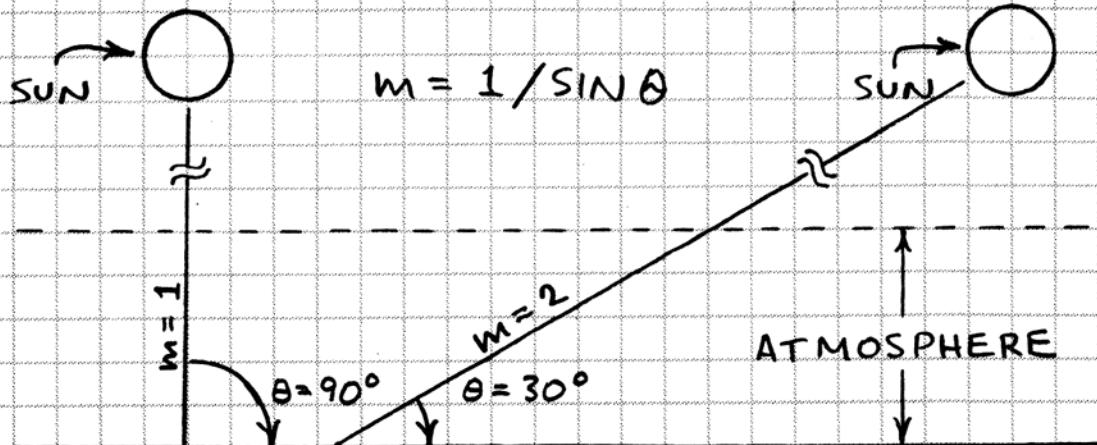
I_0 IS THE SIGNAL THE SUN PHOTOMETER WOULD MEASURE ABOVE THE ATMOSPHERE — THE EXTRATERRESTRIAL (ET) CONSTANT.

I IS THE SIGNAL DURING A SPECIFIC SUN OBSERVATION.

m IS THE AIR MASS (SEE BELOW) DURING THE OBSERVATION.

AIR MASS (m)

AIR MASS IS $1 / \sin \theta$, WHERE θ IS THE ANGLE OF THE SUN ABOVE THE HORIZON.

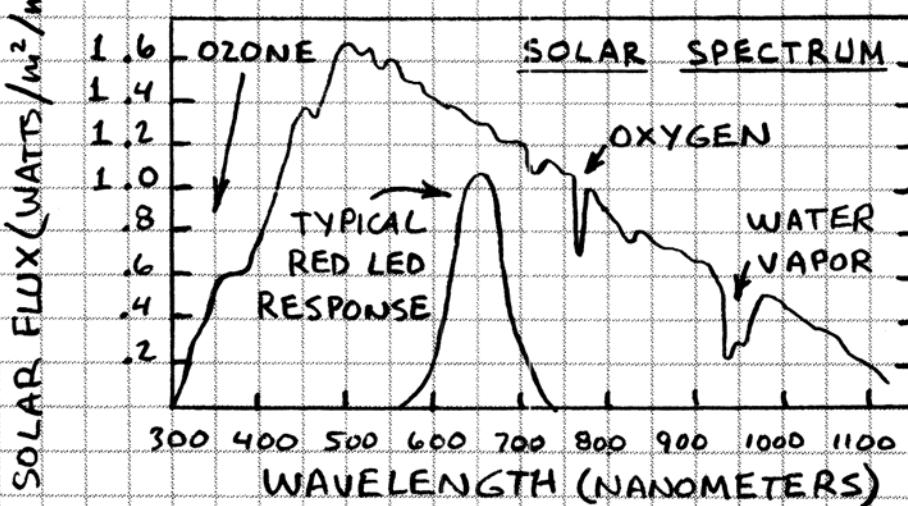


LED SUN PHOTOMETER



SUN
(DO NOT
LOOK AT
THE SUN!)

LIGHT-EMITTING DIODES EMIT AND DETECT LIGHT OVER A RELATIVELY NARROW BAND OF WAVELENGTHS (30-150 NANO-METERS). THIS MEANS AN LED CAN BE USED IN A SUN PHOTOMETER WITHOUT AN EXTERNAL OPTICAL FILTER.



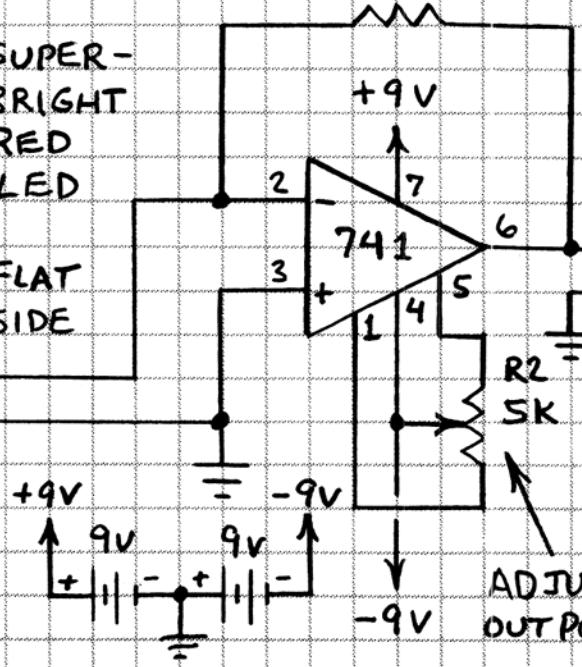
COLLIMATOR TUBE (METAL OR BLACK PAPER)

INCREASE TO R1
INCREASE GAIN 470K

**SUPER-
BRIGHT
RED**

✓ LED

ROUGHEN
END OF
LED WITH
SAND PAPER.

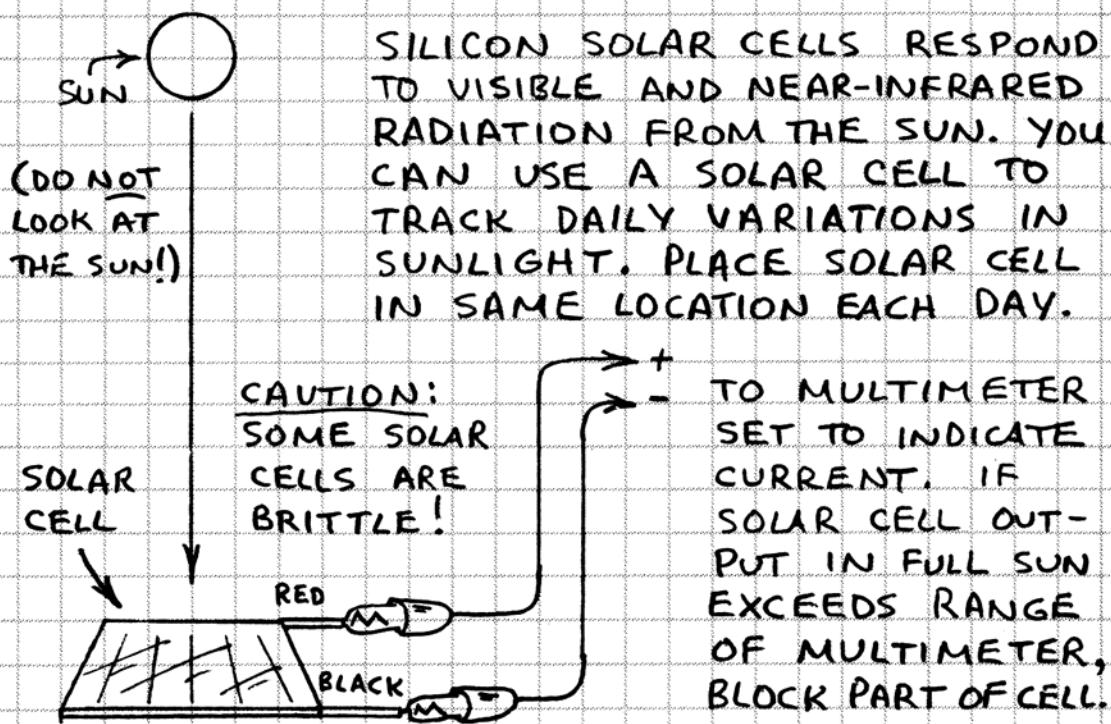


REFERENCE:
F. M. MIMS III,
"SUN PHOTOMETER
WITH LEDs ..."
APPLIED OPTICS
VOL. 31, NO. 33,
6965-6967, 1992.

→ - TO
MULTIMETER
SET TO
INDICATE
VOLTAGE

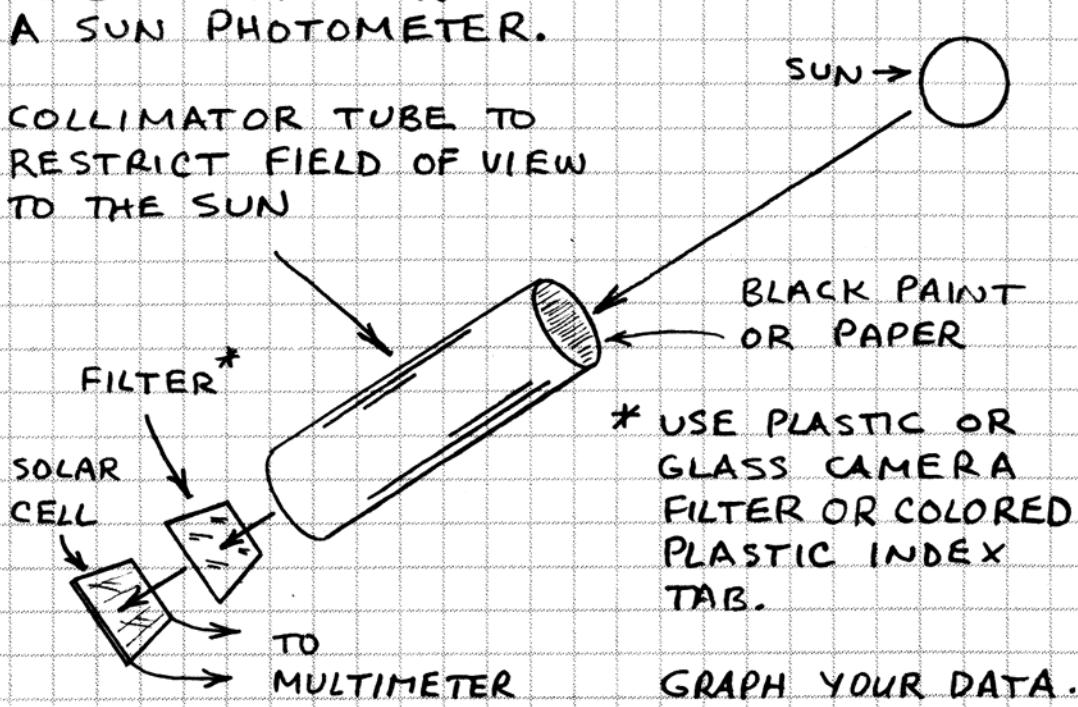
ADJUST FOR ZERO
OUTPUT WHEN DARK

SOLAR CELL RADIOMETER



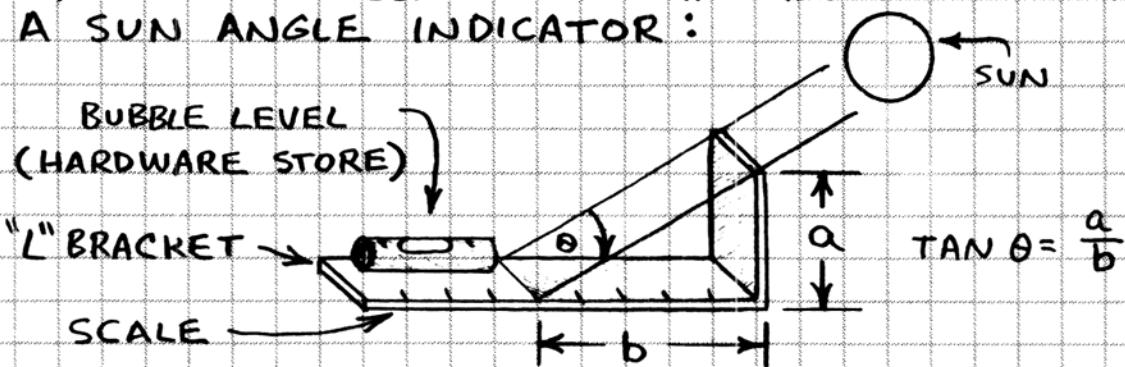
SOLAR CELL SUN PHOTOMETER

THE OPTICAL THICKNESS OF THE ATMOSPHERE (SEE PAGE 86) CAN BE MEASURED WITH A RADIOMETER THAT RESPONDS TO A NARROW BAND OF LIGHT WAVELENGTHS. A SOLAR CELL RADIOMETER CAN BE CONVERTED INTO A SUN PHOTOMETER.



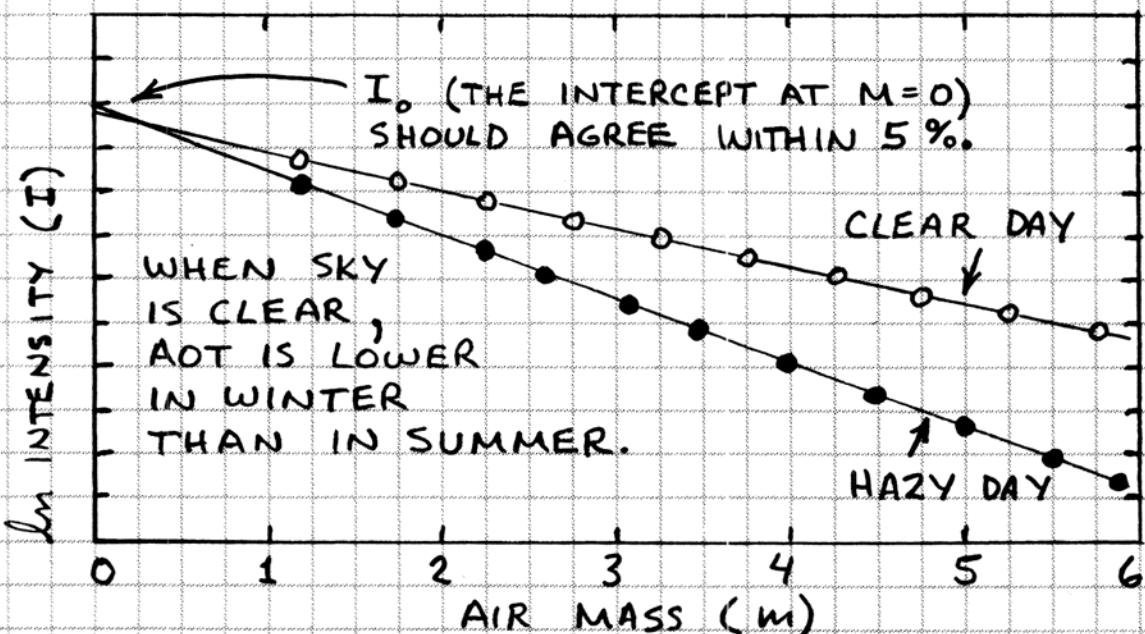
HOW TO MEASURE THE SUN'S ANGLE

USE VARIOUS ASTRONOMY COMPUTER PROGRAMS TO FIND THE SUN'S ANGLE. OR MEASURE THE SUN'S ANGLE TO WITHIN ABOUT $\pm 1^\circ$ WITH A SUN ANGLE INDICATOR:

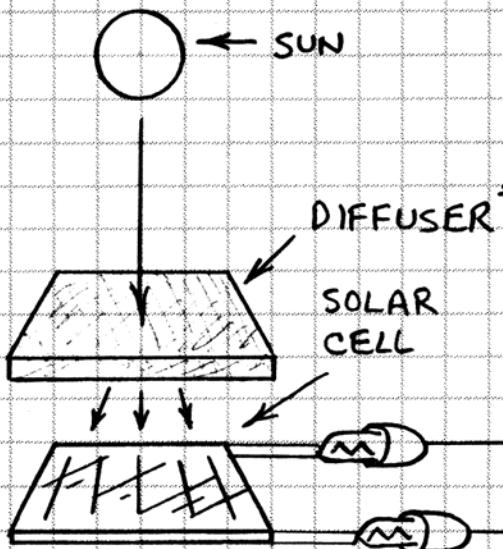


HOW TO MEASURE THE ET* CONSTANT

FIRST, MEASURE I FOR 1/2 DAY, EVERY 30 MINUTES NEAR NOON, MORE OFTEN AT LOWER SUN ANGLES. THEN PLOT $\ln I$ OF I VS. m AT EACH SUN OBSERVATION. DRAW A STRAIGHT LINE THROUGH THE POINTS. THE \ln OF THE ET CONSTANT IS WHERE THE LINE INTERCEPTS THE VERTICAL (Y) AXIS WHERE $m = 0$. HINT: USE THE LINEAR REGRESSION FEATURE OF A CALCULATOR OR COMPUTER SPREADSHEET TO FIND THE INTERCEPT AT $m = 0$. *EXTRATERRESTRIAL



TOTAL SKY SOLAR RADIOMETER



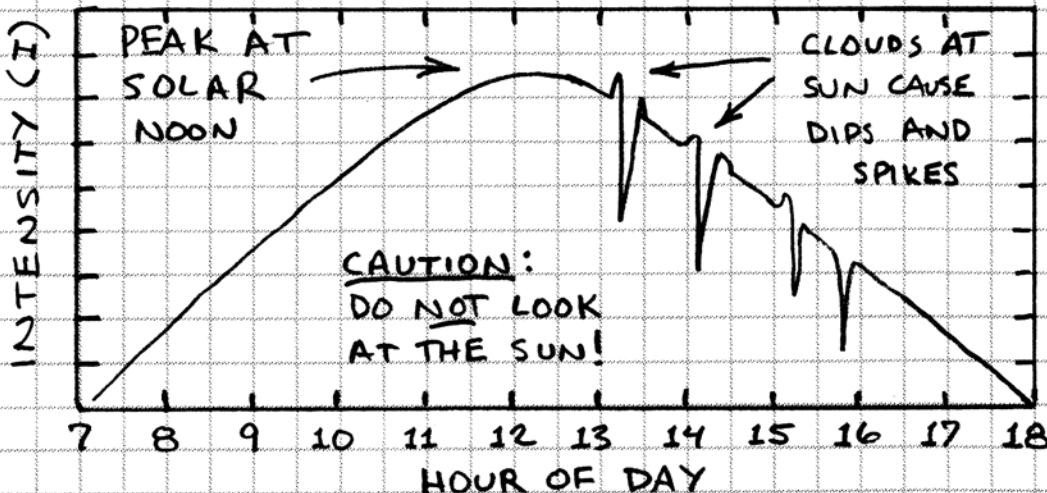
ADDING DIFFUSER TO SOLAR CELL IMPROVES TOTAL SKY RESPONSE.

TO MULTIMETER SET TO INDICATE CURRENT. IF THE SOLAR CURRENT IN FULL SUN EXCEEDS RANGE OF MULTIMETER BLOCK PART OF CELL.

* TRANSLUCENT PLASTIC FROM LIGHT FIXTURE, FOOD STORAGE CONTAINER LID, ETC.

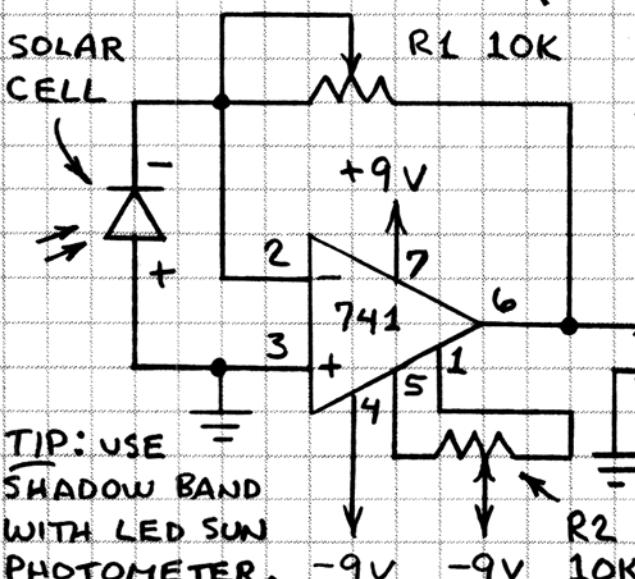
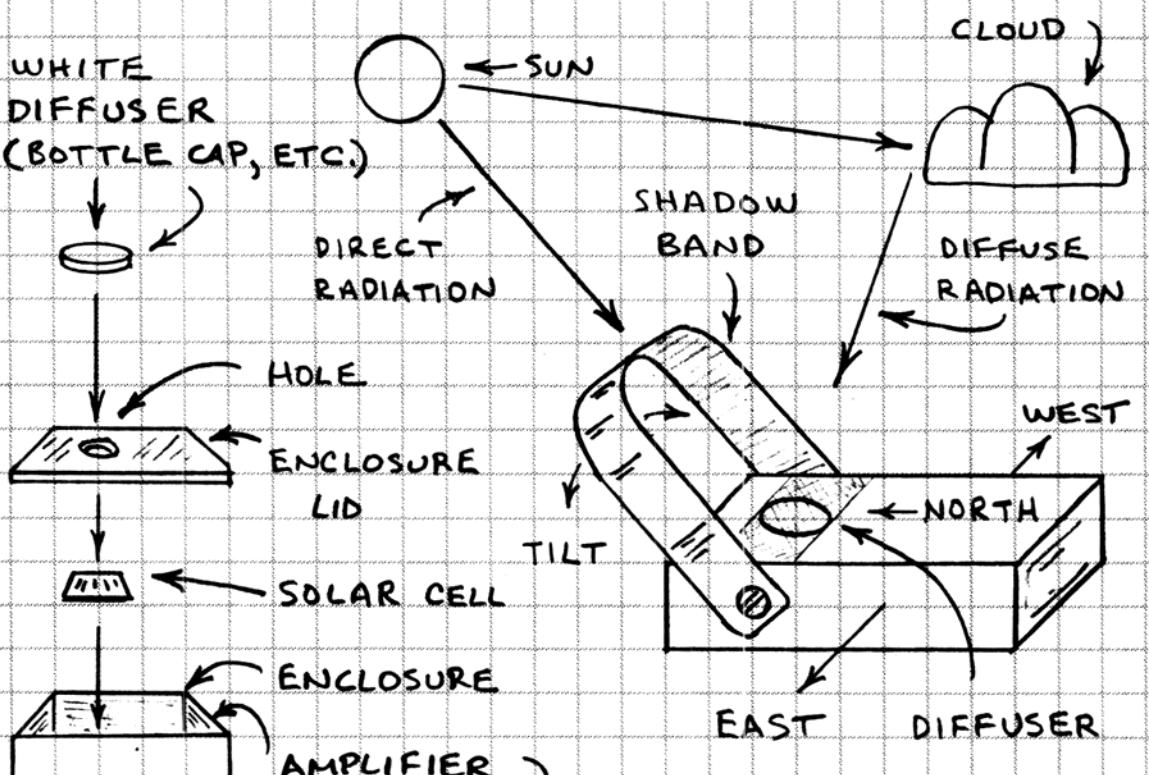
PLACE SOLAR CELL ON OPAQUE, RIGID SURFACE. PLACE DIFFUSER OVER SOLAR CELL AND USE HOT MELT GLUE OR SILICONE SEALANT TO CEMENT EDGES OF DIFFUSER TO SURFACE. PLACE DETECTOR IN SAME LOCATION EACH DAY IF YOU WANT TO COMPARE DAY TO DAY CHANGES AND TRENDS. BE SURE YOUR HEAD AND BODY DO NOT SHADE SOLAR CELL FROM PART OF THE SKY WHEN YOU MAKE MEASUREMENTS.

HERE'S A TYPICAL PLOT OF SOLAR RADIATION FOR A FULL DAY:



SHADOW BAND RADIOMETER

A SHADOW BAND (OR RING) IS A STRIP OF OPAQUE, FLEXIBLE PLASTIC, METAL OR STIFF PAPER BENT INTO A HALF CIRCLE. THE BAND IS ORIENTED EAST AND WEST AND TILTED TO FACE THE SUN. A LIGHT SENSOR UNDER THE BAND WILL BE SHADED AS THE SUN MOVES ACROSS THE SKY. IT WILL THEN RECEIVE ONLY THE DIFFUSE RADIATION FROM THE SKY AND CLOUDS.



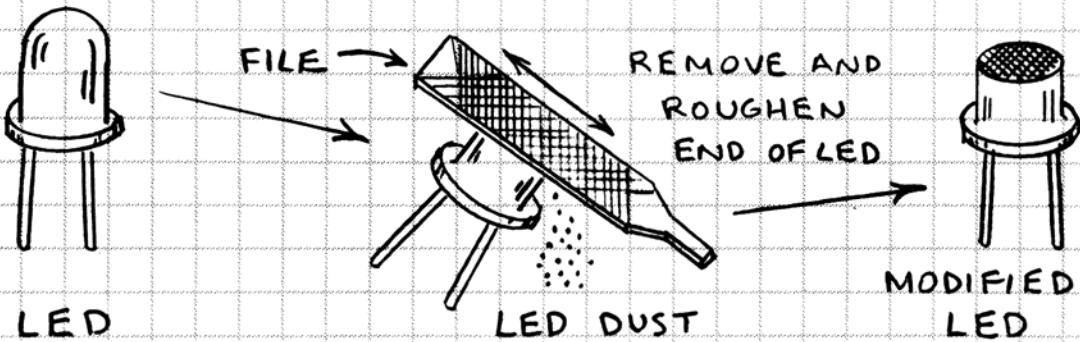
CEMENT DIFFUSER
AND SOLAR CELL
TO ENCLOSURE LID.
SET R2 TO GIVE
0 VOLTS WHEN
SOLAR CELL DARK.

SET R1 TO GIVE
OUTPUT OF 2 TO 5
VOLTS ON SUNNY
DAY.

TIP: USE
SHADOW BAND
WITH LED SUN
PHOTOMETER. -9V

MEASURING TOTAL AND DIFFUSE RADIATION

WHEN THE ATMOSPHERIC OPTICAL THICKNESS (AOT) MEASURED BY A SUN PHOTOMETER IS HIGH, THE DIRECT SOLAR RADIATION IS REDUCED AND DIFFUSE RADIATION IS INCREASED. THE LED SUN PHOTOMETER ON PAGE 39 CAN BE MODIFIED TO MEASURE THE TOTAL AND DIFFUSE RADIATION AND THE RATIO OF THE DIFFUSE OR DIRECT TO THE TOTAL RADIATION. FIRST MODIFY THE LED LIKE THIS :



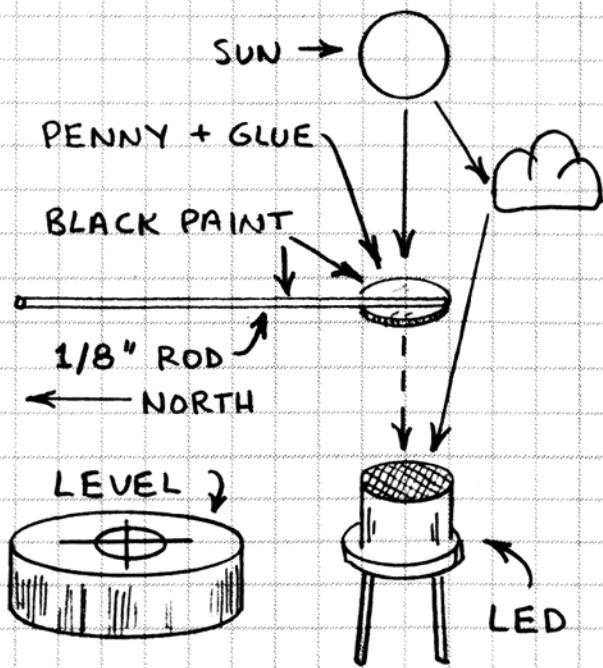
NEXT, ARRANGE THE PHOTOMETER SO THE FLAT TOP OF THE LED LOOKS STRAIGHT UP AT THE ZENITH SKY. USE A BUBBLE LEVEL TO MAKE SURE THE PHOTOMETER IS LEVEL EACH TIME YOU MAKE A MEASUREMENT. ADJUST THE RESISTANCE OF R1 FOR BEST RESULTS — BUT MAKE ANY CHANGE PERMANENT SO YOUR MEASUREMENTS WILL BE COMPARABLE.

TOTAL RADIATION
OUTPUT WHEN LED
POINTED AT ZENITH.

DIFFUSE RADIATION
OUTPUT WHEN LED
SHADED AS SHOWN.

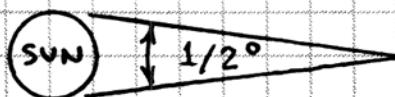
DIRECT RADIATION
TOTAL - DIFFUSE

SUGGESTION:
TRACK RATIO OF
DIRECT OR DIFFUSE
TO TOTAL OVER TIME.

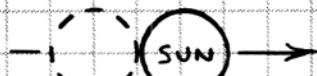


MEASURING THE SOLAR AUREOLE

THE RING OF LIGHT AROUND THE SUN ON ALL BUT THE CLEAREST DAYS IS THE SOLAR AUREOLE OR THE CIRCUMSOLAR RADIATION. THE SIZE AND BRIGHTNESS OF THE AUREOLE IS DETERMINED BY HAZE. YOU CAN USE A SUN PHOTOMETER TO MEASURE THE AUREOLE. HERE ARE THE BASICS:

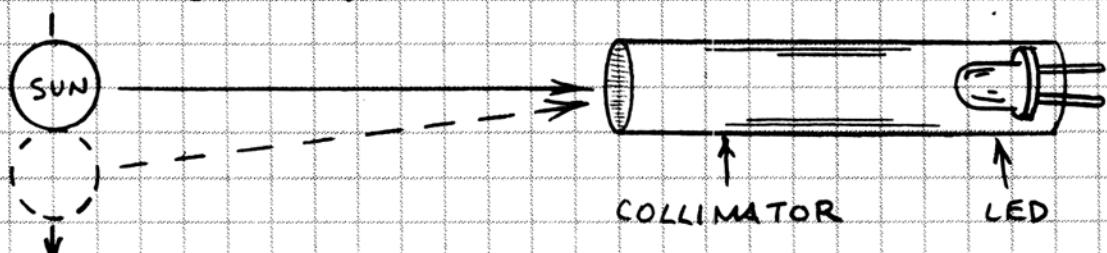


THE SUN SUBTENDS AN ANGLE OF ABOUT 0.5° .



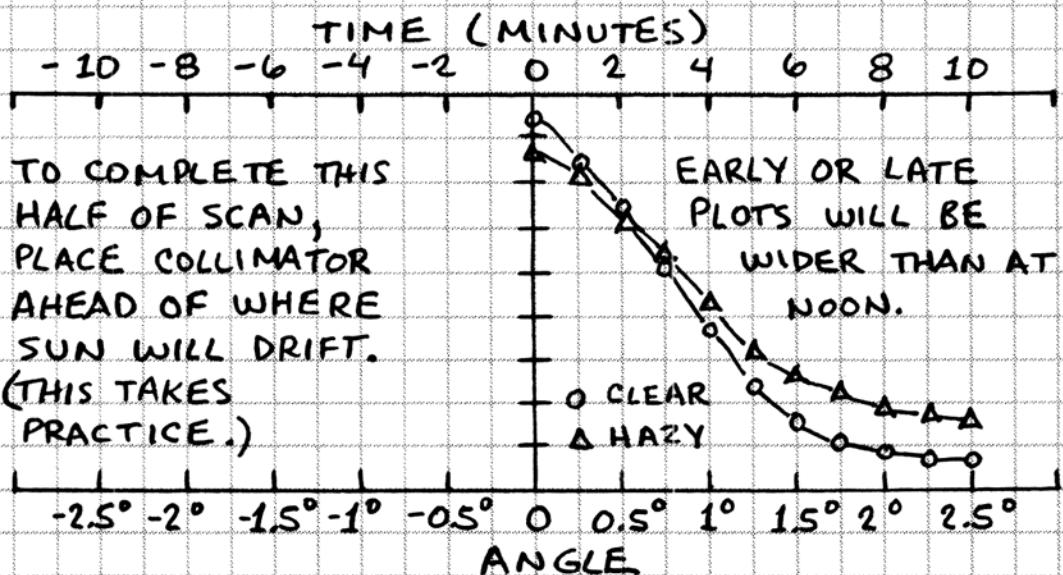
THE SUN MOVES ITS DIAMETER IN 2 MINUTES.

POINT THE PHOTOMETER COLLIMATOR TUBE AT THE SUN, SECURE IT IN PLACE, AND ALLOW THE SUN TO DRIFT PAST THE COLLIMATOR'S FIELD OF VIEW.



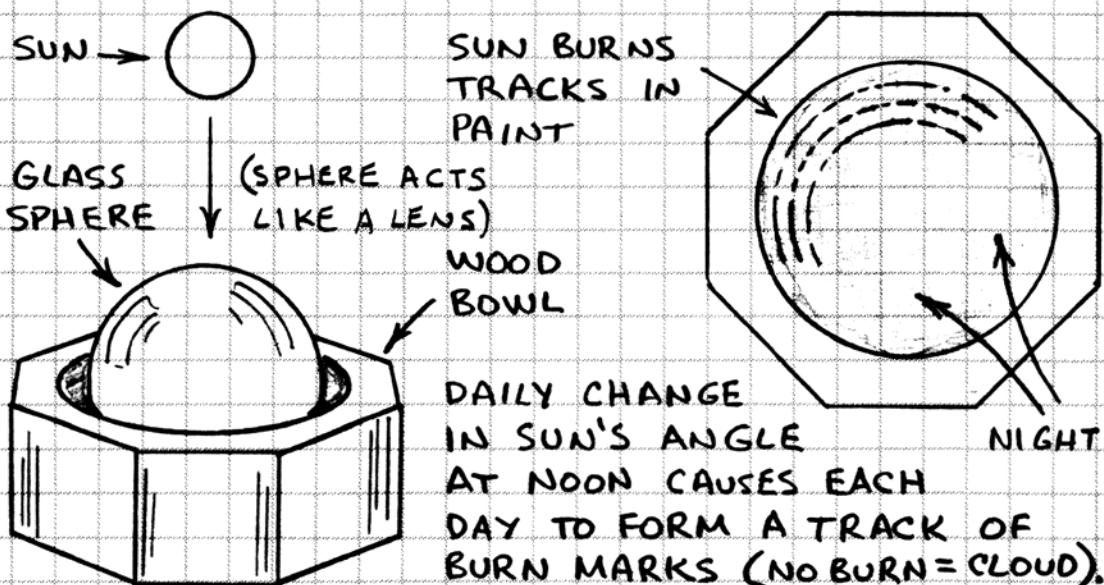
COLLIMATOR TUBE HAS NO SHADOW WHEN IT IS POINTED DIRECTLY AT THE SUN.

HERE'S ONE WAY TO PLOT YOUR MEASUREMENTS:



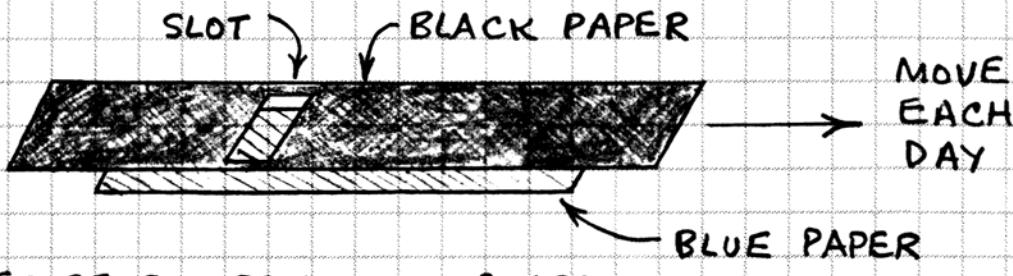
SUNSHINE DURATION RECORDER

THE TOTAL TIME DURING A DAY WHEN THE SUN IS NOT BLOCKED BY CLOUDS IS AN IMPORTANT ENVIRONMENTAL PARAMETER IN AGRICULTURE AND STUDIES OF THE EFFECT OF CLOUDS ON THE EARTH'S TEMPERATURE. IN 1853 J.F. CAMPBELL INVENTED A SUNSHINE RECORDER :



PAPER SUNSHINE RECORDER

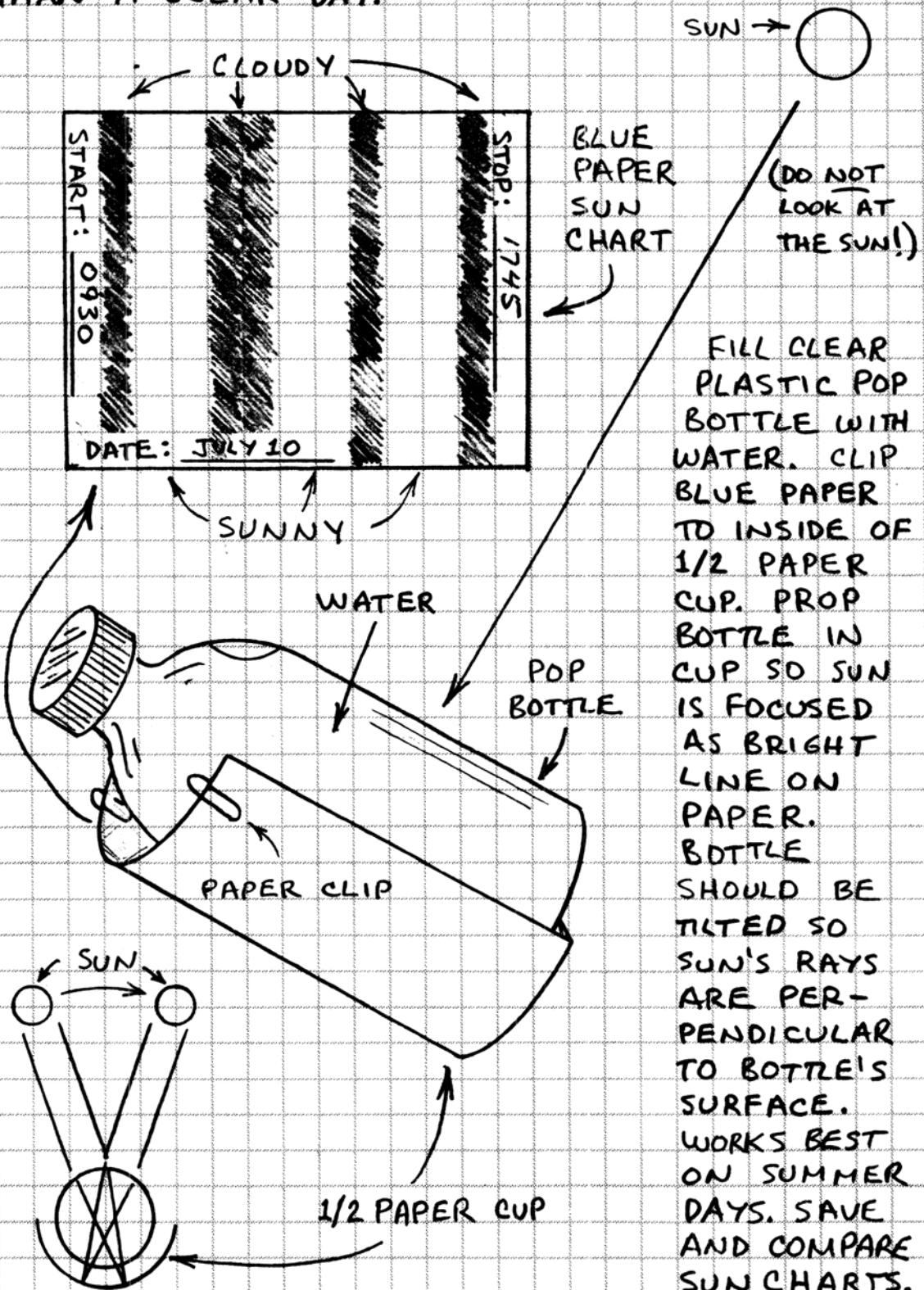
SUNLIGHT DARKENS NEWSPRINT AND CAUSES SOME COLORED CONSTRUCTION PAPER TO FADE. PLACE STRIP OF BLUE OR RED CONSTRUCTION PAPER UNDER STRIP OF BLACK PAPER WITH SLOT CUT OUT TO PASS SUN LIGHT. MOVE SLOT SAME DISTANCE EACH MORNING. AFTER A WEEK, PAPER STRIP WILL HAVE SEVEN FADED RECTANGLES. THE MOST FADED RECTANGLES RECEIVED THE MOST SUNLIGHT.



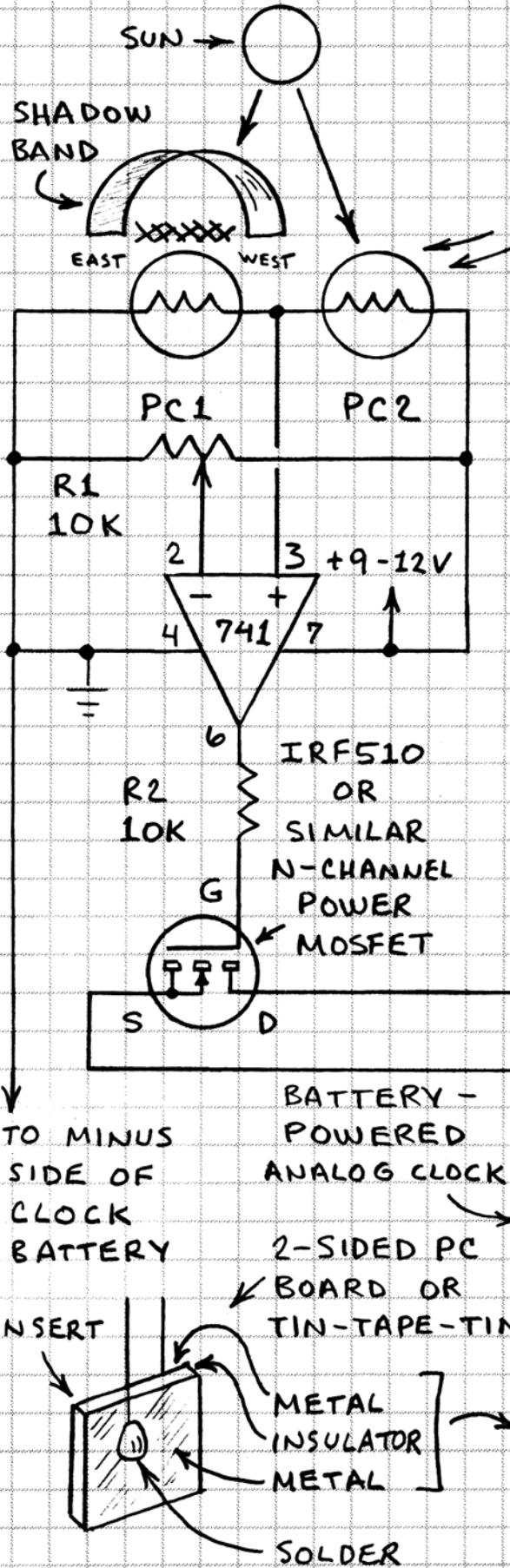
SECURE STRIPS IN CLIP BOARD.

POP BOTTLE SUNSHINE RECORDER

THIS SIMPLE APPARATUS INDICATES PASSAGE OF LARGE CLOUD MASSES AS UNFADED STRIPES ON BLUE CONSTRUCTION PAPER. RANDOM CLOUDS PASSING OVER SUN MAY CAUSE LESS FADING THAN A CLEAR DAY.



ELECTRONIC SUNSHINE RECORDER



THIS CIRCUIT MEASURES THE TOTAL TIME THE SUN SHINES DURING A DAY.

PC 1-2 ARE CADMIUM SULFIDE PHOTORESISTORS.

PC1 IS CONCEALED FROM THE DIRECT SUN BY A SHADOW BAND. BOTH PC1 AND PC2 LOOK STRAIGHT UP. WITH PC1 IN SHADE AND PC2 IN SUN, ADJUST R1 UNTIL RELAY PULLS IN ("CLICK") AND CLOCK STARTS. SHADE PC2 AND RELAY SHOULD DROP OUT, STOPPING CLOCK. SET CLOCK TO 12:00:00 TO BEGIN. LOG TOTAL ELAPSED SUNSHINE TIME IN NOTEBOOK.

III. COMMUNICATIONS PROJECTS

OVERVIEW

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS IS THE TRANSFER OF INFORMATION BY WIRE OR OPTICAL FIBER OR WIRELESS MEANS (RADIO, TELEVISION, MICROWAVE OR LIGHTWAVE).

THERE ARE MANY CATEGORIES OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION. FOR INSTANCE, VOICE COMMUNICATIONS CAN BE 1-WAY AS IN A RADIO OR TELEVISION NEWS BROADCAST. OR VOICE COMMUNICATIONS CAN BE 2-WAY AS IN CONVERSATIONS VIA TELEPHONE, INTERCOM AND BOTH AMATEUR AND CITIZENS BAND RADIO. EXAMPLES OF NON-VOICE COMMUNICATION INCLUDE MORSE CODE, TELETYPEWRITER SIGNALS, COMPUTER DATA TRANSMISSION AND WILDLIFE TELEMETRY. RADIO CONTROL IS A FORM OF COMMUNICATION IN WHICH THE TRANSMITTED INFORMATION CONTROLS A REMOTE DEVICE SUCH AS A CAMERA, GARAGE DOOR OR MODEL BOAT OR PLANE.

CIRCUIT ASSEMBLY TIPS

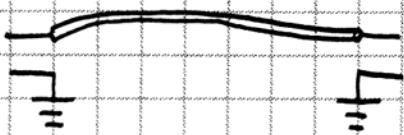
THE CIRCUITS THAT FOLLOW CAN BE ASSEMBLED FROM READILY AVAILABLE SUPPLIES. YOU CAN USUALLY SUBSTITUTE SIMILAR COMPONENTS IF THOSE SPECIFIED ARE UNAVAILABLE. FOR INSTANCE, A 25,000 (50K) OHM POTENTIOMETER CAN BE SUBSTITUTED FOR A 10,000 (10K) UNIT. BE SURE TO BYPASS THE POWER SUPPLY PINS OF OPERATIONAL AND POWER AMPLIFIER ICs (TIE THEM TO GROUND WITH A $0.1\mu F$ CAPACITOR CONNECTED CLOSE TO THE IC). THIS WILL HELP PREVENT UNWANTED OSCILLATION. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SEE "GETTING STARTED IN ELECTRONICS" (RADIO SHACK, 1983) AND OTHER BOOKS IN THIS SERIES.

CONNECTED COMMUNICATION LINKS

CONNECTED COMMUNICATION LINKS ARE THOSE IN WHICH TWO OR MORE STATIONS ARE LINKED BY A WIRE, CABLE OR WAVEGUIDE.

ADVANTAGES INCLUDE RELIABILITY, LOW NOISE AND SIMPLE ELECTRONICS. HOWEVER, CONNECTED LINKS REQUIRE RIGHT-OF-WAY AND CAN BE VERY EXPENSIVE TO INSTALL. FURTHERMORE, ONLY CONNECTED STATIONS CAN COMMUNICATE.

SINGLE WIRE



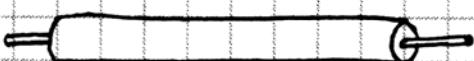
TELEGRAPH LINKS.
GROUND REQUIRED AT
EACH END.

TWISTED PAIR



TELEPHONES (UP TO 15 CHANNELS) AND DIGITAL DATA TRANSMISSION.

COAXIAL CABLE



CAN CARRY UP TO
90,000 VOICE CHANNELS.

HOLLOW WAVEGUIDE



CAN CARRY MICROWAVE SIGNAL MODULATED WITH
100,000 + VOICE CHANNELS.

OPTICAL FIBER



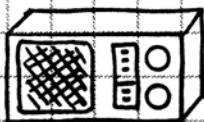
CAN CARRY LIGHTWAVE MODULATED WITH
100,000 OR MORE VOICE CHANNELS.

WIRELESS COMMUNICATION LINKS

WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS LINKS ARE THOSE IN WHICH INFORMATION IS SENT TO ONE OR MORE RECEIVERS BY MEANS OF A MODULATED ELECTRO-MAGNETIC WAVE.

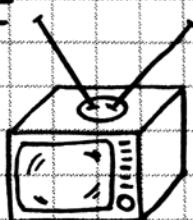
ADVANTAGES INCLUDE LONG DISTANCE COMMUNICATION, TRANSMISSION TO AND FROM LAND, AIR AND SPACE VEHICLES AND BOTH DIRECTIONAL AND NON-DIRECTIONAL TRANSMISSION. SUBJECT TO INTERFERING NOISE.

RADIO



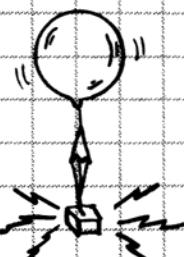
BROADCAST AND SHORTWAVE RADIO. ALSO AMATEUR RADIO, CITIZENS BAND, MOBILE, ETC.

VHF



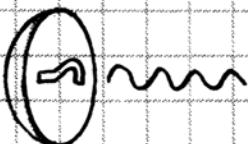
TELEVISION AND FM RADIO. ALSO AIRCRAFT, AMATEUR RADIO, MOBILE, SPACE, ETC.

UHF



WEATHER BALLOONS, TELEVISION, MOBILE, NAVIGATION, AMATEUR, SATELLITE, DEEP SPACE, ETC.

MICROWAVE



COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE, LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE, NAVIGATION, AMATEUR, ETC.

LIGHTWAVE



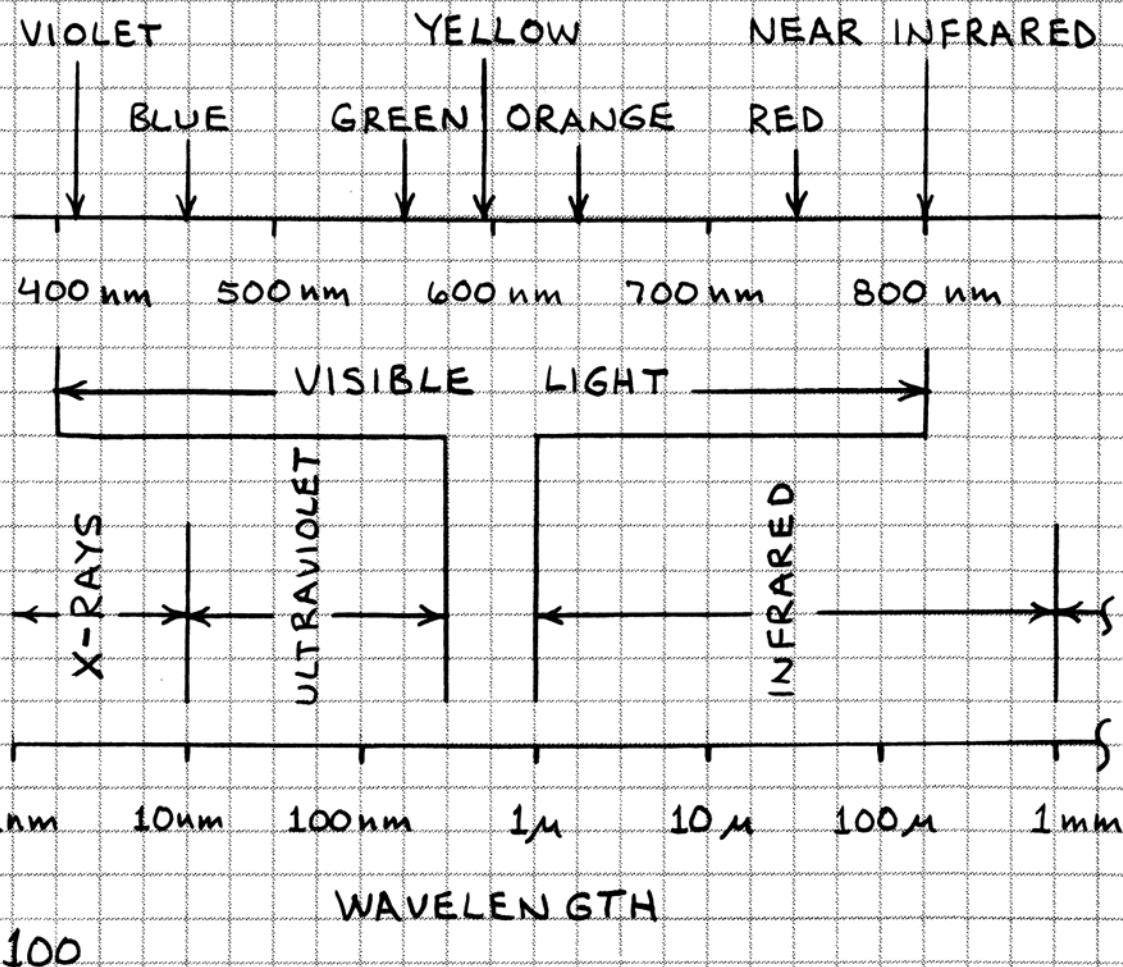
LINE-OF-SIGHT COMPUTER DATA TRANSMISSION AND VOICE LINKS.

ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION

ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION IS ENERGY IN THE FORM OF A WAVE OF OSCILLATING ELECTRIC AND MAGNETIC FIELDS. THE WAVE TRAVELS THROUGH A VACUUM AT A VELOCITY OF 2.998×10^8 METERS PER SECOND (186,284 MILES PER SECOND). THE WAVELENGTH OF AN ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVE DETERMINES ITS PROPERTIES. X-RAYS, INFRARED, MICROWAVES, RADIO WAVES AND LIGHT ARE ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION.

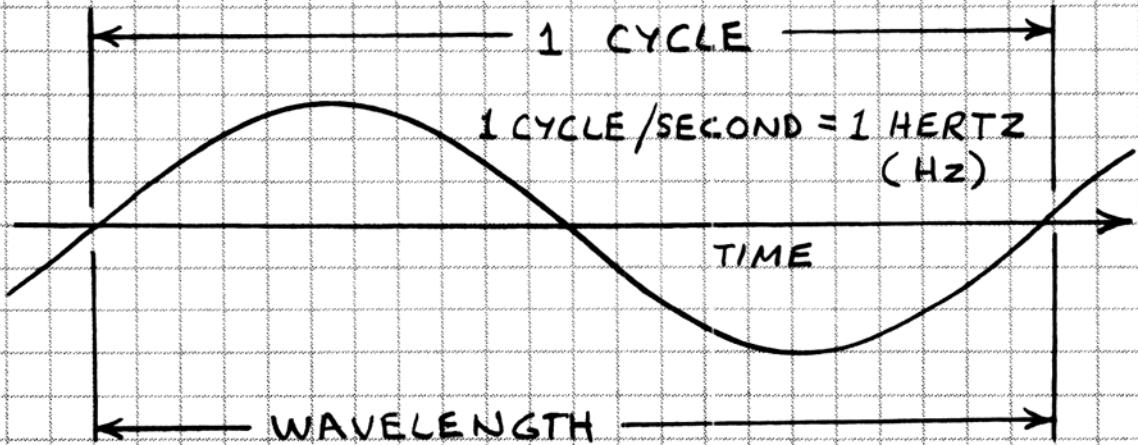
ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM

nm = NANOMETER (1 nm = .000 000 001 METER)
μ = MICROMETER (1 μ = .000 001 METER)
mm = MILLIMETER (1 mm = .001 METER)
m = METER (1 m = 39.37 INCHES)
km = KILOMETER (1 km = 1,000 METERS)



WAVELENGTH VS FREQUENCY

THE FREQUENCY OF AN ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVE IS THE NUMBER OF CYCLES THAT OCCUR IN ONE SECOND.

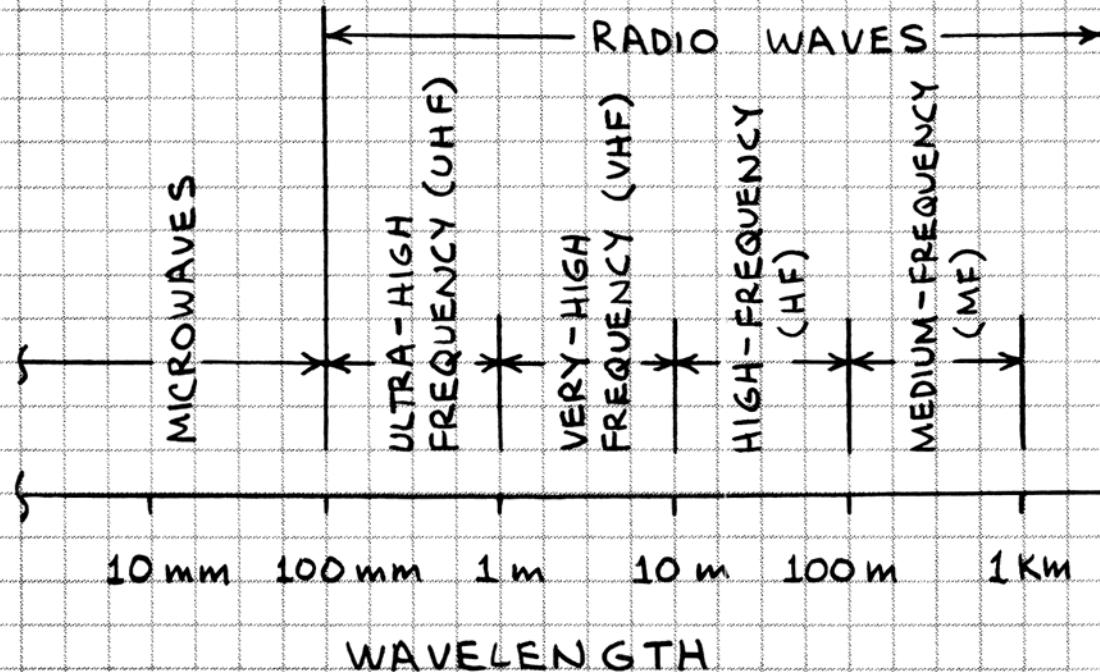


IF EITHER THE FREQUENCY OR LENGTH OF A WAVE IS KNOWN, THE UNKNOWN VALUE CAN BE CALCULATED:

$$\text{FREQUENCY (Hz)} = c / \text{WAVELENGTH} (\lambda)$$

$$\text{WAVELENGTH} (\lambda) = c / \text{FREQUENCY (Hz)}$$

$$c = 3 \times 10^8 \text{ METERS PER SECOND}$$



INTERNATIONAL MORSE CODE

IN 1836, SAMUEL F. B. MORSE BUILT THE FIRST WORKING TELEGRAPH. HE ALSO DEVISED A CODE THAT PERMITTED TELEGRAPH OPERATORS TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION. HIS CODE IS STILL USED BY TELEGRAPH, RADIO AND SIGNAL LIGHT OPERATORS. HERE IT IS:

A	· -	N	— ·	1	· - - -
B	- · · ·	O	— — —	2	· · - -
C	- · - ·	P	· - - ·	3	· · · -
D	- · ·	Q	— — · -	4	· · · · -
E	·	R	· - ·	5	· · · · ·
F	· · - ·	S	· · ·	6	- · · ·
G	— — ·	T	-	7	- - · ·
H	· · · ·	U	· · -	8	- - - ·
I	· ·	V	· · · -	9	- - - -
J	· - - -	W	· - -	0	- - - -
K	- · -	X	- · · -	.	· - · - · -
L	· - - ·	Y	- · - -	?	· · - - · ·
M	- -	Z	— — · ·	-	- · · · - -

THE CODE INCLUDES MANY ADDITIONAL PUNCTUATION MARKS, PHRASES AND ABBREVIATIONS.

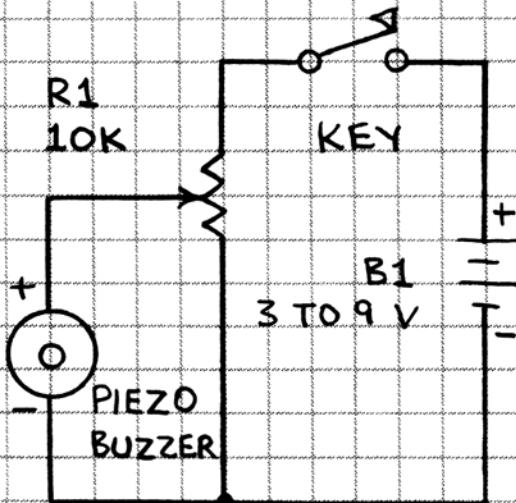
LEARNING THE CODE

THINK OF THE CODE AS SOUNDS, NOT DOTS AND DASHES. SAY "DIT" FOR DOT AND "DAH" FOR DASH. THUS A IS "DIT DAH" OR SIMPLY "DIDAH." B IS "DAHDIDIDIT." C IS "DAHDIDAHDT." A CODE PRACTICE OSCILLATOR CAN HELP YOU LEARN THE CODE. EVEN BETTER IS THE CASSETTE TAPE INCLUDED WITH THE "TUNE IN THE WORLD WITH HAM RADIO" KIT AVAILABLE FROM THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE (ARRL) IN NEWINGTON, CT 06111. THE TEXT SUPPLIED WITH THE KIT IS AN EXCELLENT INTRODUCTION TO THE WORLD OF AMATEUR RADIO. IT COVERS ELECTRICAL THEORY, EQUIPMENT, ANTENNAS, ETC.

CODE PRACTICE OSCILLATORS

A RADIO TRANSMITTER REQUIRES LESS POWER TO TRANSMIT CODE THAN VOICE. MOREOVER, CODE CAN BE UNDERSTOOD WHEN THE SIGNAL IS VERY FAINT OR WHEN STATIC IS SO SEVERE THAT VOICE IS UNINTELLIGIBLE. THESE CPOS WILL HELP YOU LEARN CODE.

PIEZOBUZZER CPO

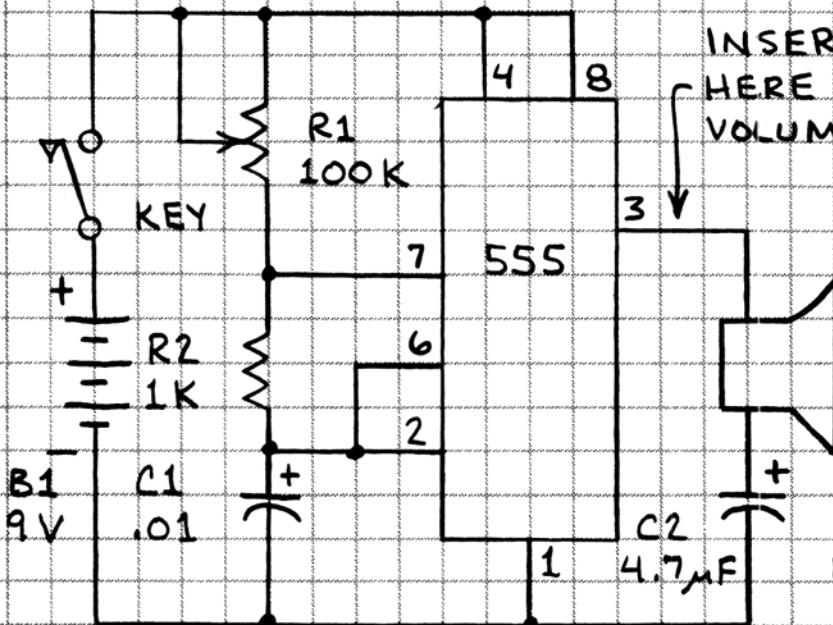


KEY - USE TELEGRAPH KEY FOR BEST RESULTS. PUSHBUTTON SWITCH OK FOR TEMPORARY USE.

R1 - CONTROLS THE VOLUME.

PIEZO BUZZER - BEST TO USE LOW FREQUENCY, STEADY TONE UNIT.

INTEGRATED CIRCUIT CPO



INSERT RESISTOR HERE TO REDUCE VOLUME.

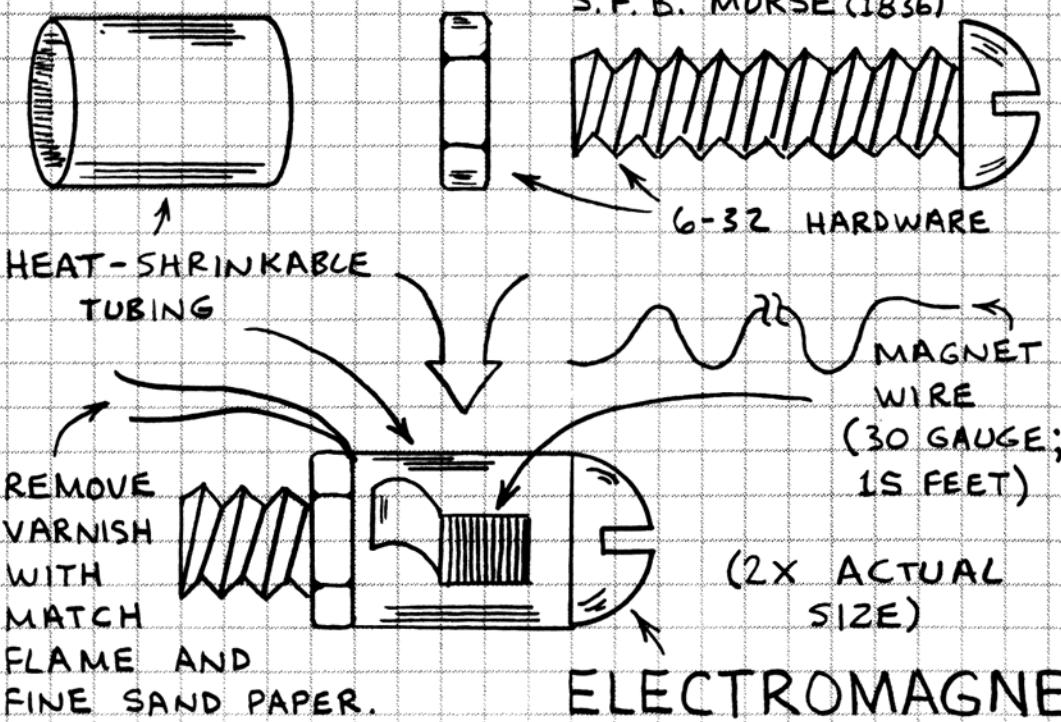
8 Ω
SPKR

R1 - CONTROLS FREQUENCY

ELECTROMAGNETIC TELEGRAPH

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO MAKE SIMPLE TELEGRAPHS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE CODE PRACTICE OSCILLATORS ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE CAN BE USED IN A SOLID-STATE TELEGRAPH SYSTEM. THE COMPONENTS OF A DO-IT-YOURSELF ELECTROMAGNETIC TELEGRAPH ARE GIVEN HERE. YOU CAN BUILD THE TELEGRAPH ON THE FACING PAGE IN A FEW HOURS.

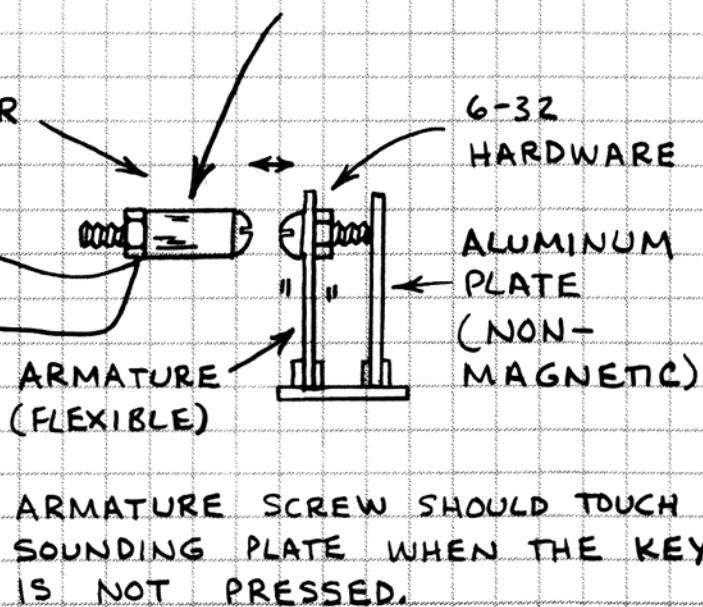
INVENTOR:
S. F. B. MORSE (1836)



PRESS KEY TO ACTUATE SOUNDER

KEY

BATTERY (3 TO 6 VOLTS)



MOVING CONTACT
(6-32 SCREW)

KEY

FLEXIBLE
PLASTIC
KEY

SOLDER
LUGS

6-32
SCREW

FIXED
CONTACT
(SOLDER
LUG &
6-32
SCREW)

WIRE

BANANA
JACKS

FLEXIBLE
PLASTIC

SOUNDER

ELECTRO
MAGNET

ARMATURE

ALUMINUM
L BRACKET

ALUMINUM
L BRACKET
(ACTUAL
SIZE)

6-32
SCREW &
WASHER(S)

6-32 SCREWS

BANANA
JACKS

PLASTIC OR
ALUMINUM
L BRACKETS

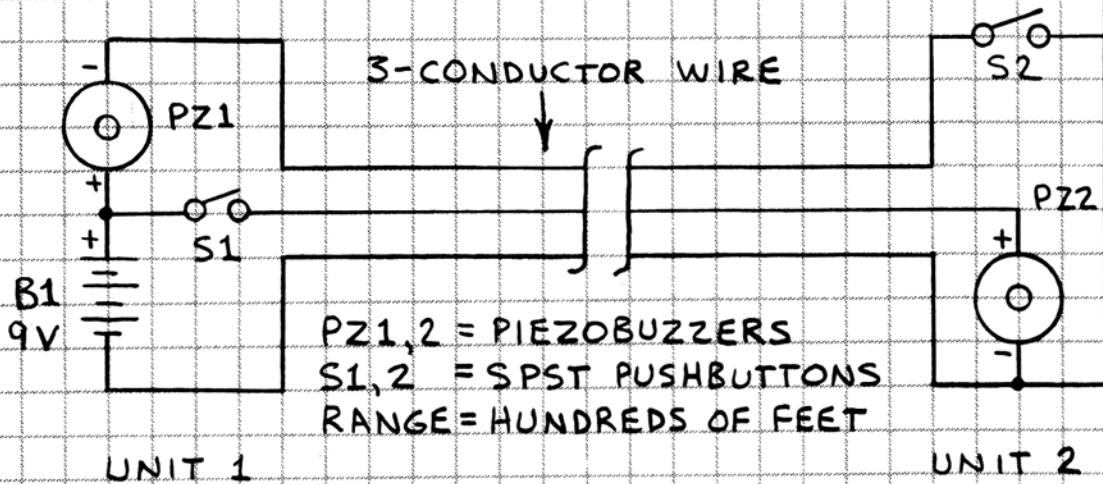
CONNECT KEY, SOUNDER AND BATTERY WITH WIRES FITTED WITH BANANA PLUGS. USE WOOD OR PERFORATED BOARD FOR BASES. USE ALUMINUM BRACKETS FROM HARDWARE STORE OR MAKE FROM HOBBY SHOP METAL. CUT PLASTIC ARMATURE FROM ONE GALLON MILK CONTAINER. DOT = PRESS / RELEASE (CLICK / CLICK). DASH = PRESS / HOLD / RELEASE (CLICK / SPACE / CLICK).

SOLID-STATE TELEGRAPHHS

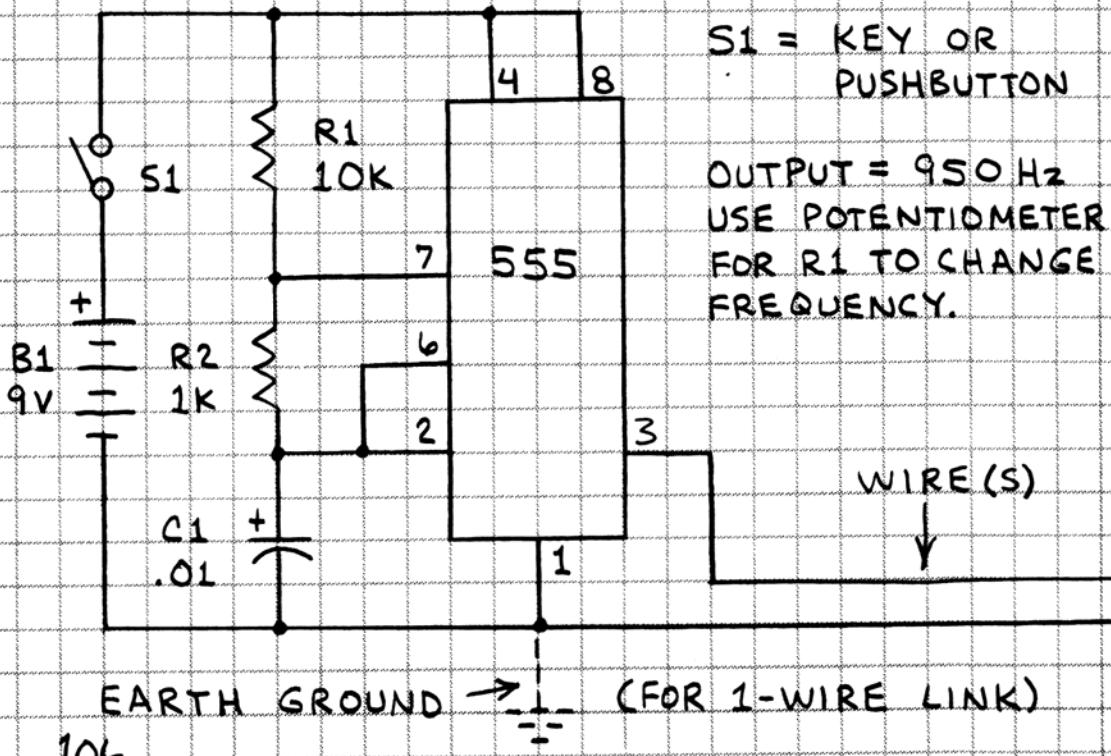
TRANSISTORS AND INTEGRATED CIRCUITS MAKE POSSIBLE VERY SENSITIVE TELEGRAPH SYSTEMS.

CAUTION: NEVER INSTALL TELEGRAPH, INTERCOM OR TELEPHONE WIRES NEAR OUTDOOR POWER LINES.

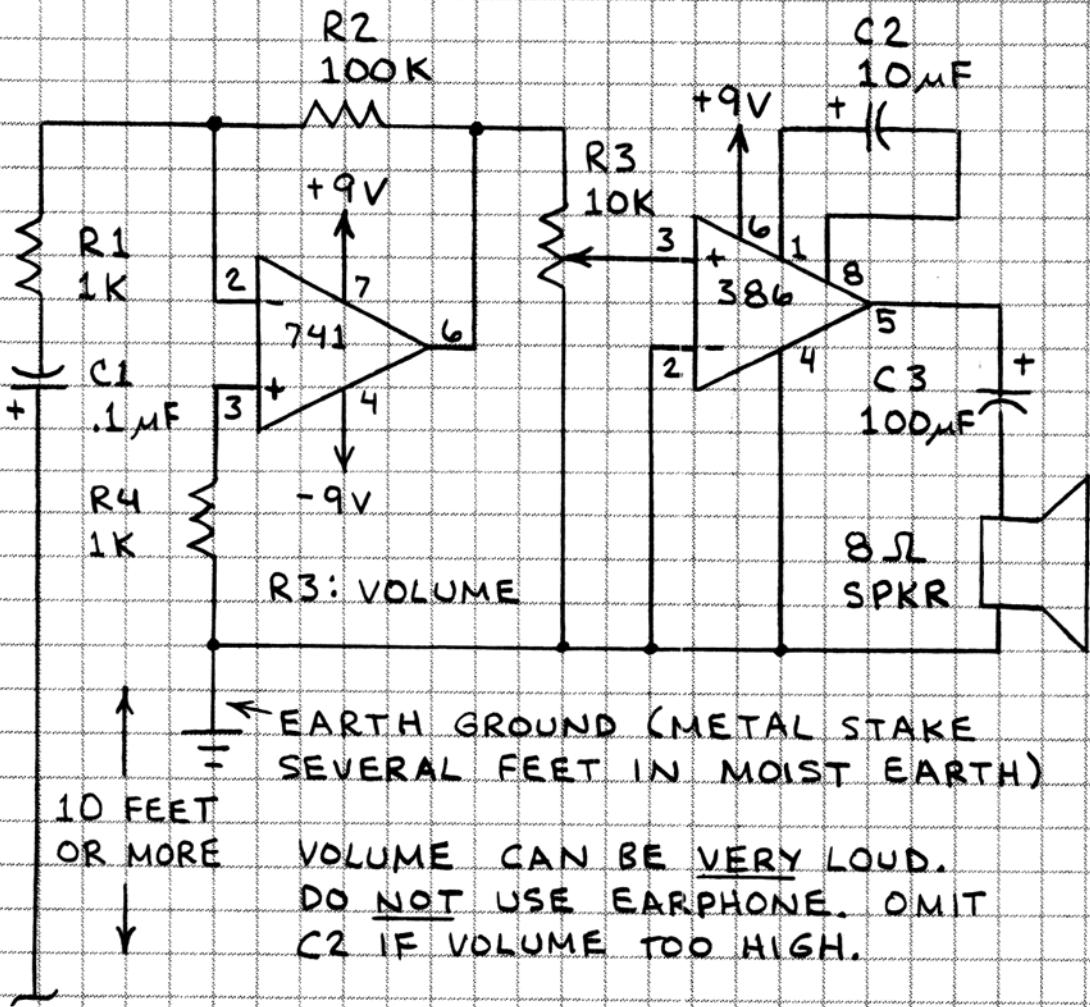
SIMPLE SOLID-STATE TELEGRAPH



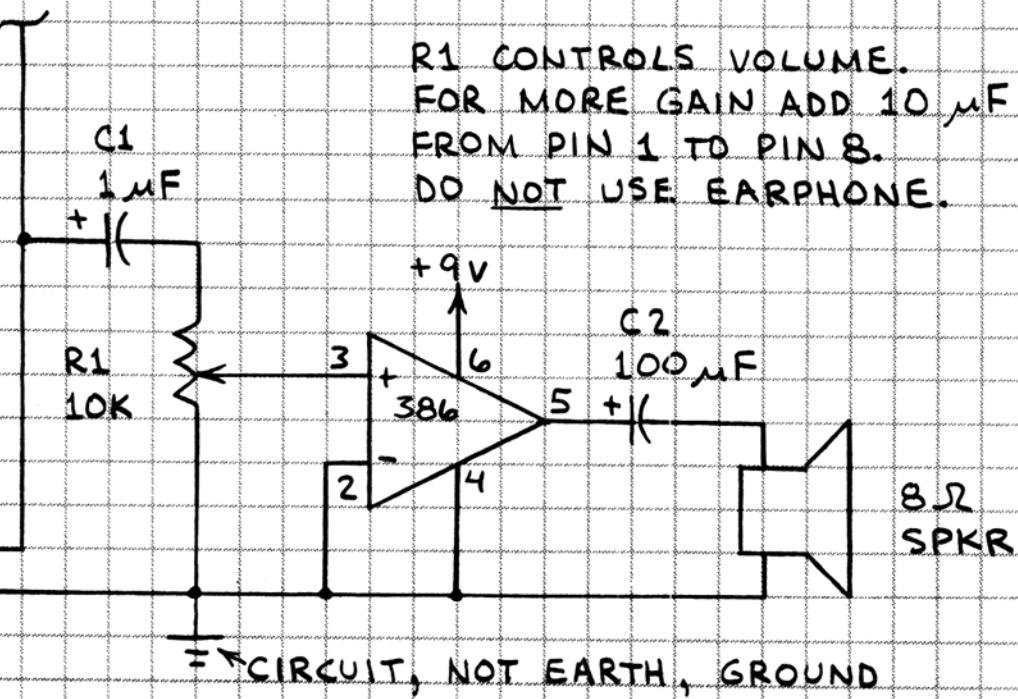
1-OR 2-WIRE TELEGRAPH SENDER



1-WIRE TELEGRAPH SOUNDER

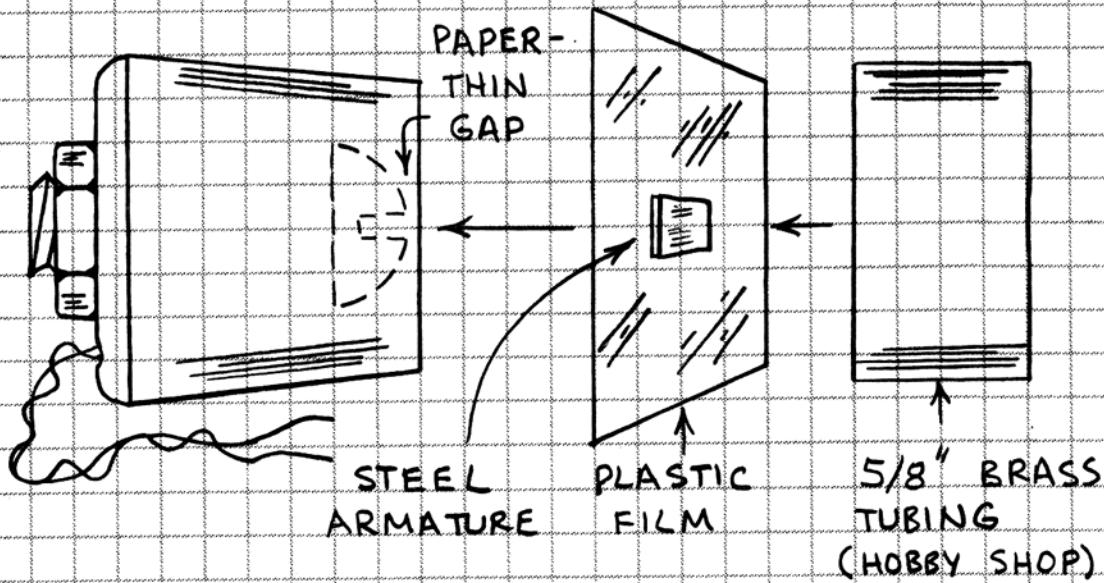
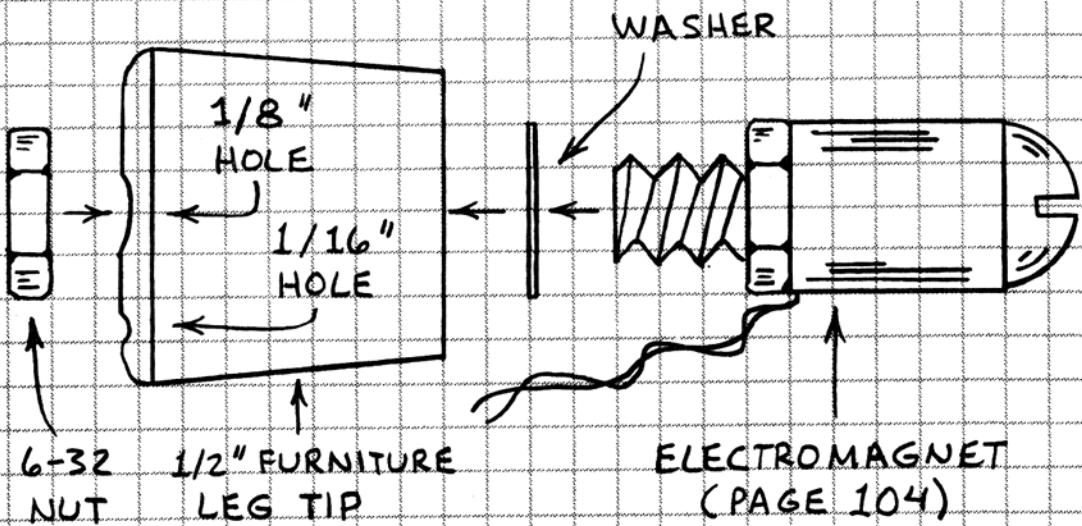


2-WIRE TELEGRAPH SOUNDER



TELEPHONE RECEIVER

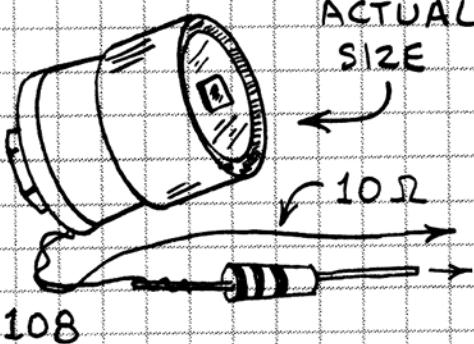
A SIMPLE TELEPHONE RECEIVER IS EASILY MADE FROM READILY AVAILABLE MATERIALS:



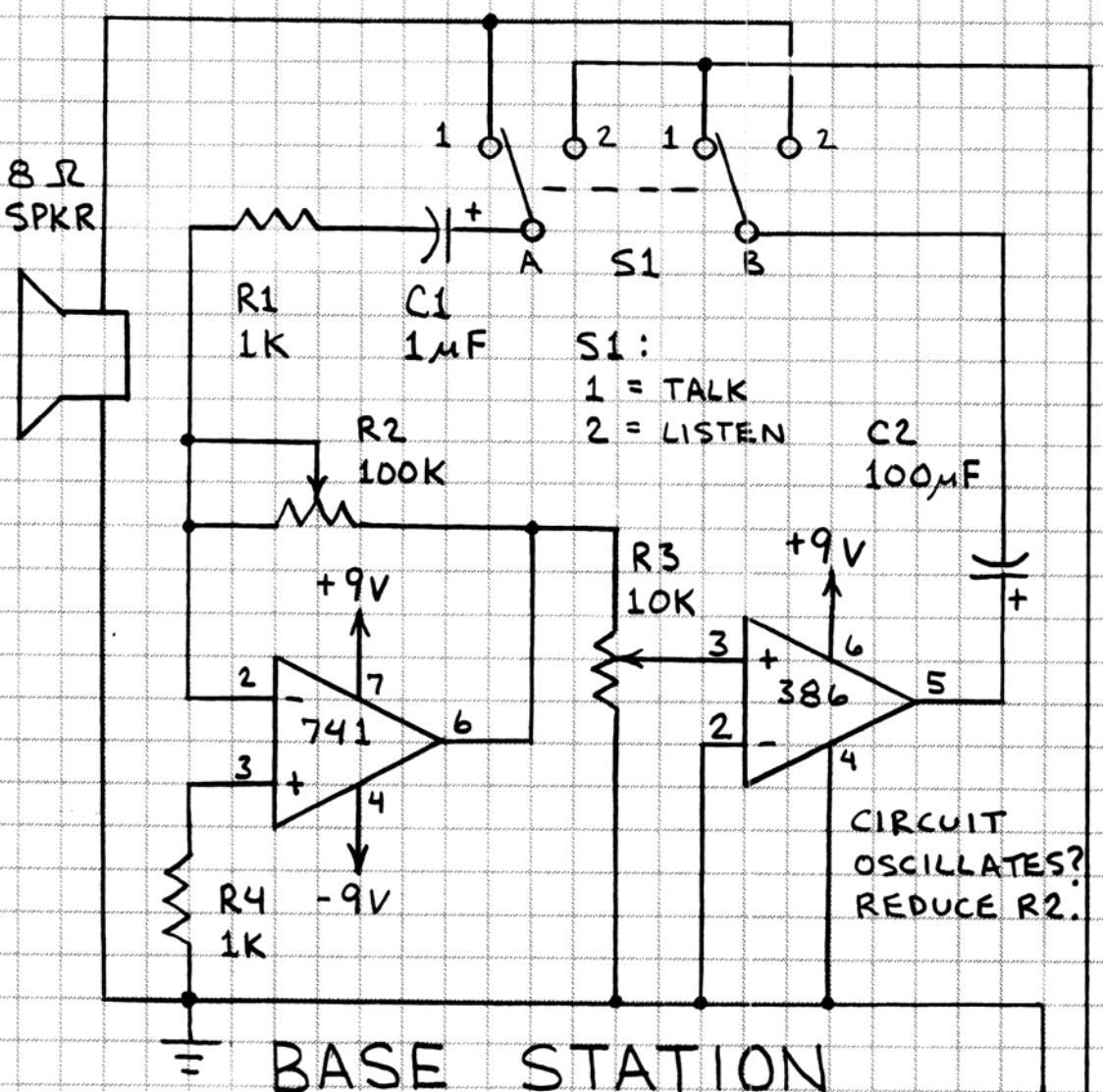
ARMATURE IS $3/16$ " SQUARE, $1/32$ " THICK STEEL (SCRAP OR CUT FROM SHEET). ATTACH TO PLASTIC WITH DOUBLE-SIDED TAPE.

INVENTOR:
PROF. A. G. BELL (1876)

ADD 10 OHM RESISTOR.
CONNECT LEADS TO BATTERY-POWERED RADIO PHONE JACK TO TEST. VOLUME WILL BE LOW SINCE COIL RESISTANCE IS ONLY 1.56 OHMS.



PUSH-TO-TALK INTERCOM



S1: DPDT SWITCH.

R2: CONTROLS 741 GAIN. OK TO USE FIXED RESISTOR.

R3: CONTROLS VOLUME.

IMPORTANT: BYPASS POWER SUPPLY PINS TO GROUND WITH 0.1μF CAPACITORS.

USE SHIELDED CABLE TO REDUCE NOISE (POWER LINE HUM, ETC.). GROUND THE SHIELD.



ADD ON/OFF SWITCH TO SPKR SAVE BATTERY LIFE.

REMOTE STATION

LIGHTWAVE COMMUNICATIONS

1880 - ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL INVENTED THE PHOTOPHONE, A DEVICE FOR SENDING VOICE OVER A BEAM OF SUNLIGHT.

1880 - BELL AND SUMNER TANTER SENT VOICE MESSAGES OVER A 213 METER PATH.

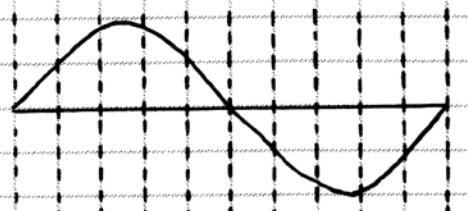
1966 - K.C. KAO PROPOSED LONG DISTANCE OPTICAL FIBER COMMUNICATIONS.

MODULATION

A LIGHTWAVE CAN CARRY DIGITAL DATA OR ANALOG INFORMATION SUCH AS VOICE. SHOWN BELOW ARE SOME WAYS IN WHICH A LIGHT WAVE CAN BE ANALOG MODULATED.

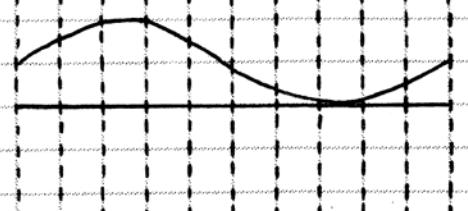
ANALOG SIGNAL

TYPICAL ANALOG SIGNAL (TEMPERATURE, TONE, ETC.).



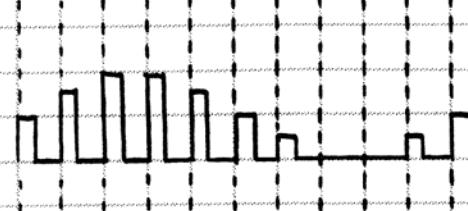
AMPLITUDE

ANALOG SIGNAL CONTROLS INTENSITY OF LIGHT.



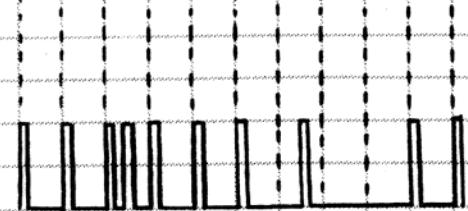
PULSE AMPLITUDE

ANALOG SIGNAL CONTROLS INTENSITY OF PULSES.



PULSE FREQUENCY

ANALOG SIGNAL CONTROLS FREQUENCY OF PULSES.

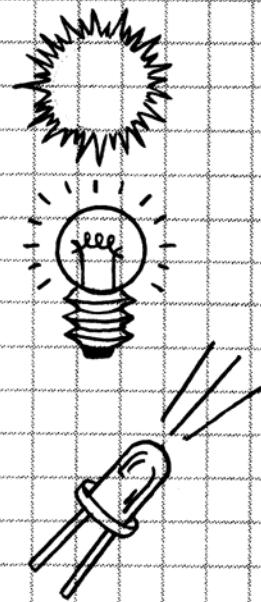


LIGHT SOURCES

MANY LIGHT SOURCES CAN BE USED IN LIGHTWAVE COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS. AMONG THE EASIEST TO USE ARE:

1. SUNLIGHT -

USED IN THE FIRST LIGHTWAVE COMMUNICATORS AND STILL VERY EASY TO USE.



2. INCANDESCENT LAMP -

LAMPS WITH SMALL FILAMENTS CAN BE VOICE MODULATED. NOT SUITABLE FOR HIGH FREQUENCY SIGNALS.

3. LIGHT EMITTING DIODE (LED) -
IDEAL SOURCE. BOTH VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE WAVELENGTHS. CAN BE MODULATED AT HIGH FREQUENCIES.

LIGHT DETECTORS

DETECTORS FOR LIGHTWAVE COMMUNICATION LINKS ARE USUALLY SOLID-STATE DEVICES. AMONG THE MOST COMMONLY USED ARE:

1. SOLAR CELL -

INEXPENSIVE AND EASY TO USE. PEAK SENSITIVITY IS ~ 880 nm. CAN BE USED FROM ~ 450 nm TO 1100 nm.



2. PHOTOTRANSISTOR -

FASTER AND MORE SENSITIVE THAN SOLAR CELLS. SAME SPECTRAL RESPONSE. EXTERNAL LENS HELPFUL.



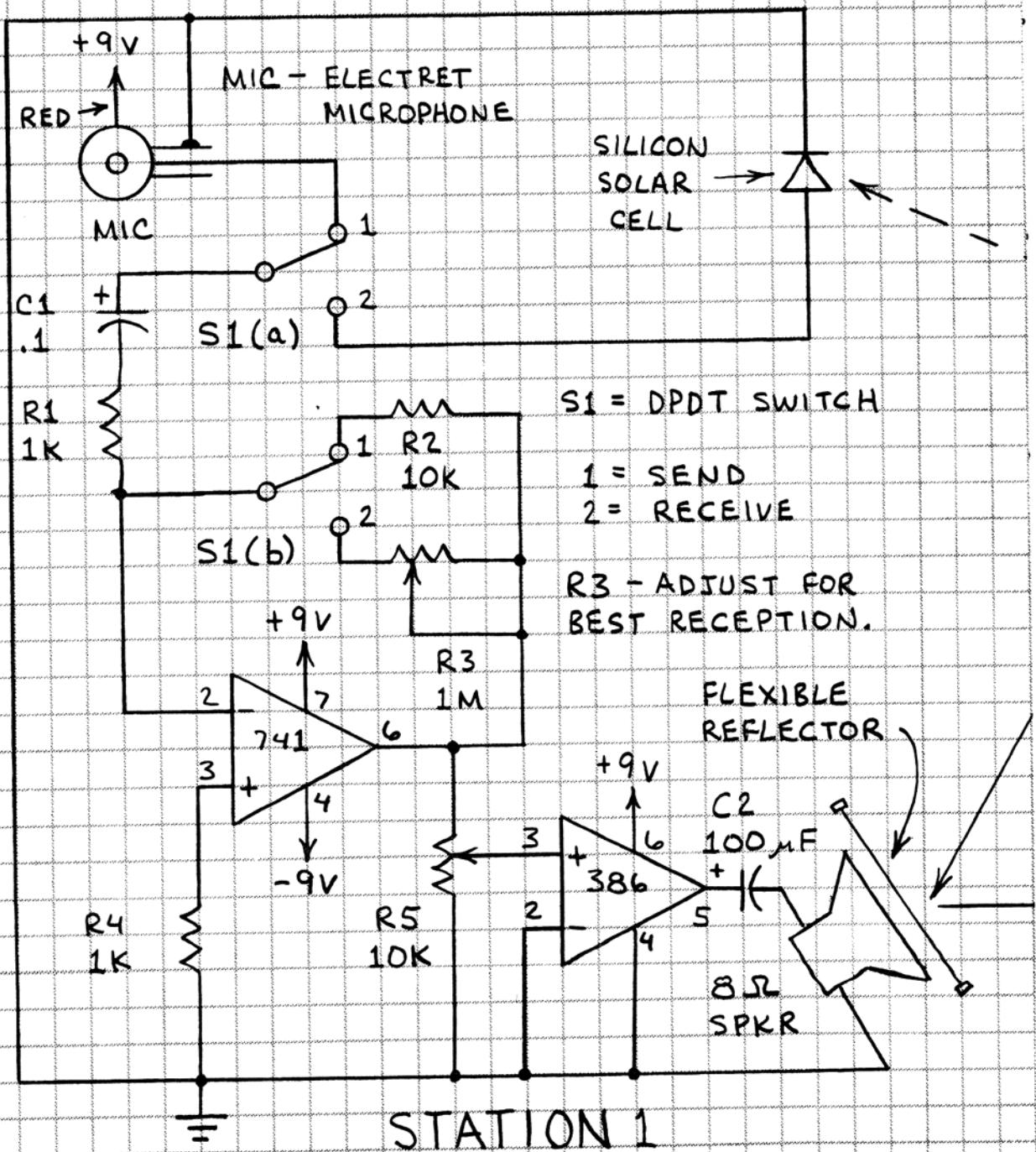
3. LIGHT EMITTING DIODE -

AN LED CAN DETECT THE EMISSION FROM A SIMILAR LED. RED AND NEAR-INFRARED LEDs WORK BEST AS DETECTORS.



ELECTRONIC PHOTOPHONE

AFTER HE INVENTED THE PHOTOPHONE IN 1880, ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL INVENTED THE ELECTRIC PHOTOPHONE. IN THE NON-ELECTRIC PHOTOPHONE A BEAM OF SUNLIGHT WAS DIRECTLY MODULATED BY VOICE PRESSURE AGAINST A FLEXIBLE MIRROR OR MOVABLE GRATING. IN THE ELECTRIC PHOTOPHONE SUNLIGHT WAS MODULATED BY A MIRROR ATTACHED TO A TELEPHONE RECEIVER. SHOWN HERE IS A MODERN VERSION OF THE ELECTRIC PHOTOPHONE.



KEEP BATTERY LEADS SHORT AND CONNECT 0.1 MF CAPACITORS FROM POWER SUPPLY PINS OF EACH CHIP TO GROUND.

IMPORTANT:
THE SPEAKERS MAY EMIT VERY LOUD SOUNDS. DO NOT PLACE YOUR EARS CLOSE TO EITHER SPEAKER.

CAUTION:
BOTH OPERATORS MUST WEAR SUNGLASSES AND AVOID STARING AT REFLECTED SUNLIGHT!

USE TRIPODS FOR BEST RESULTS. REFLECTED SUNLIGHT FROM FLEXIBLE REFLECTOR SHOULD FORM A DISTINCT SPOT WHEN DIRECTED AGAINST A NEARBY WALL.

SOLAR CELL

(SEE
FACING
PAGE)

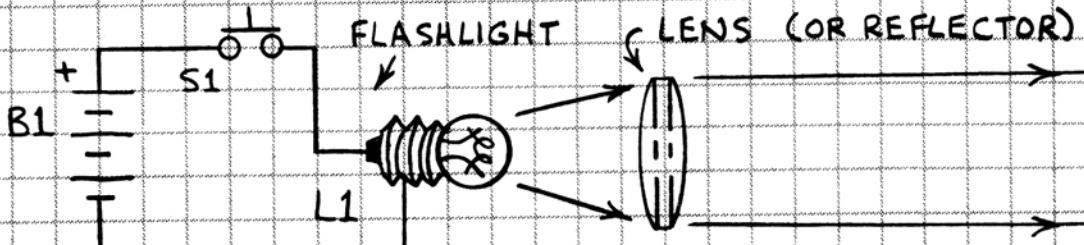
NOTE THAT THE SPEAKERS FUNCTION AS SOUND SOURCE IN RECEIVE MODE.

STATION 2

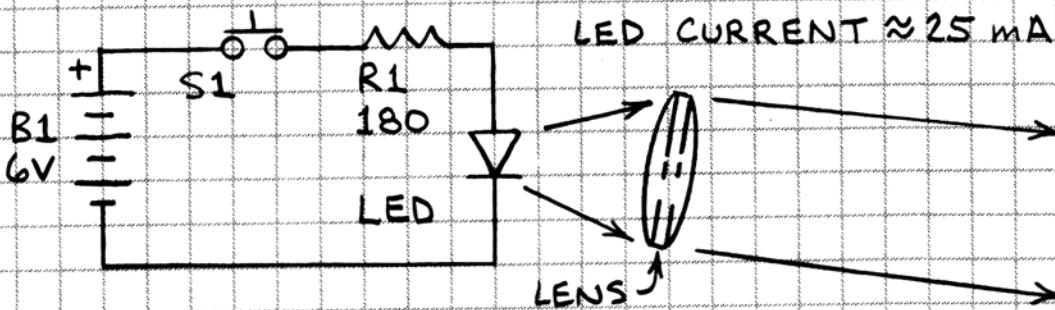
LIGHTWAVE CODE TRANSMITTERS

SIMPLE CODE COMMUNICATORS CAN BE USED TO SEND MESSAGES, WARNING SIGNALS, ETC.

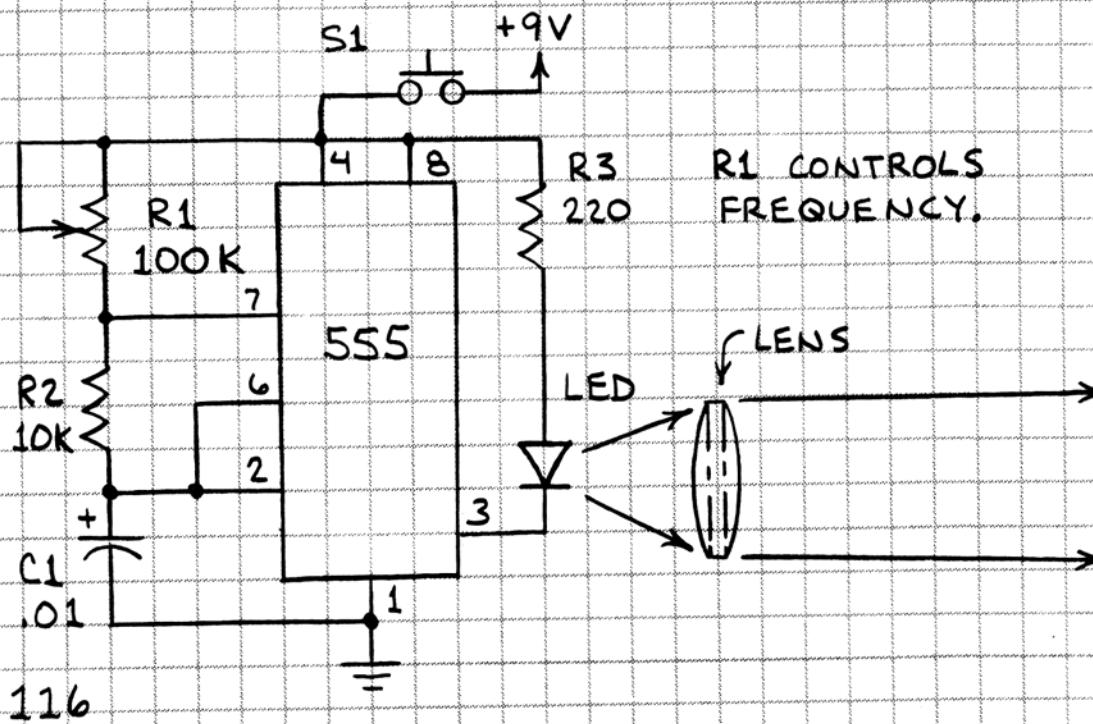
FLASHLIGHT SYSTEM



INFRARED SYSTEM

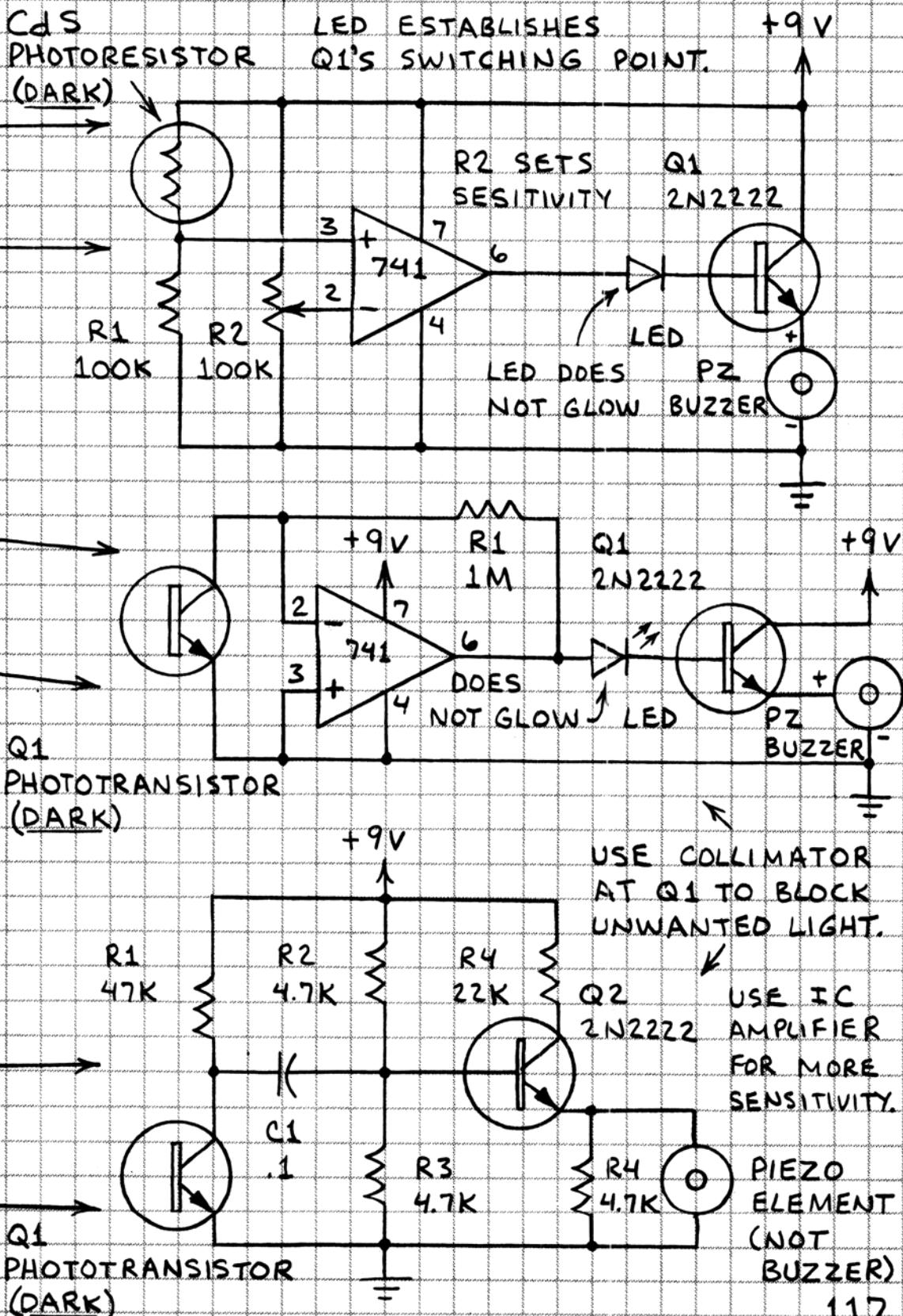


PULSE MODULATED SYSTEM



LIGHTWAVE CODE RECEIVERS

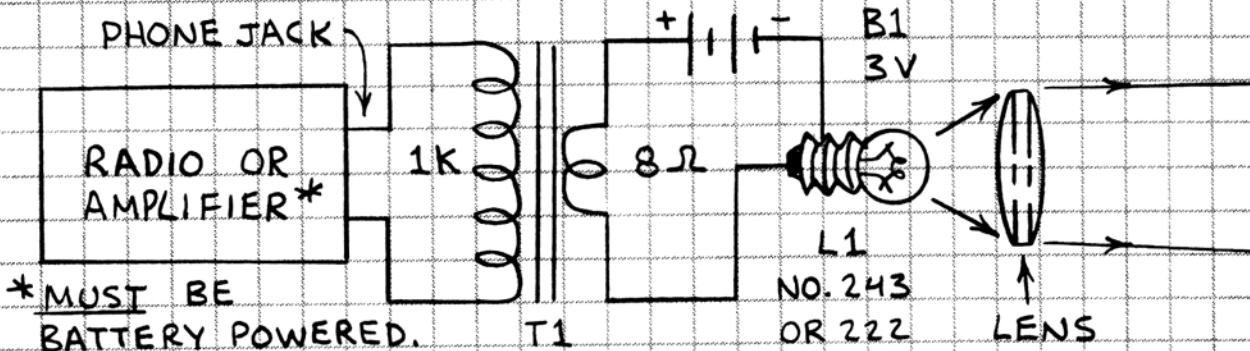
THESE RECEIVERS MUST BE KEPT FROM EXTERNAL LIGHT SOURCES. THE FIRST TWO ARE LIGHT-ACTUATED TONE GENERATORS.



FLASHLIGHT VOICE TRANSMITTERS

THESE SIMPLE AM SYSTEMS DEMONSTRATE THAT INCANDESCENT LAMPS CAN BE VOICE MODULATED.

BASIC VOICE TRANSMITTER



T1 IS MINIATURE 1K:8Ω OUTPUT TRANSFORMER. SINCE MOST PHONE JACKS ARE 8Ω, MUCH BETTER RESULTS WILL BE OBTAINED WITH TWO BACK-TO-BACK TRANSFORMERS. CONNECT 1K WINDINGS OF THE TRANSFORMERS TOGETHER. THEN CONNECT ONE 8Ω WINDING TO RADIO OR AMPLIFIER AND THE OTHER TO THE LAMP AND BATTERY.

BETTER VOICE TRANSMITTER

AVERAGE CURRENT THROUGH Q2 IS 230mA. USE POWER TRANSISTOR IF Q2 OVERHEATS.

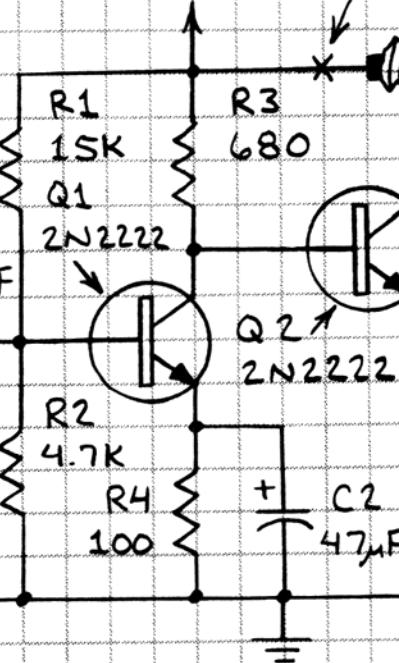
TO RADIO OR AMPLIFIER*

8Ω

T1

+3V

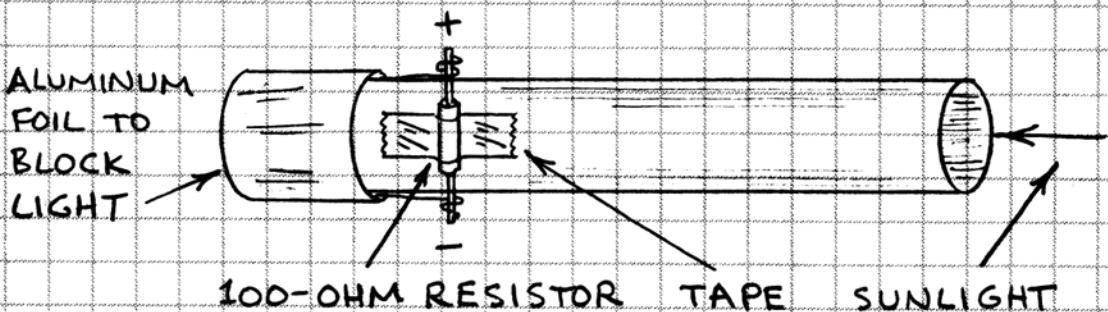
MEASURE CURRENT.



SOUND QUALITY IS GOOD.

ONE WAY IS TO WRAP THE SOLAR CELL END OF THE TUBE WITH ALUMINUM FOIL. TAPE THE FOIL TO THE SIDE OF THE TUBE. BE SURE IT DOES NOT CONNECT TOGETHER OR SHORT THE SOLAR CELL LEADS.

2. CONNECT THE SOLAR CELL LEADS ACROSS A 100-OHM RESISTOR. TAPE THE RESISTOR TO THE SIDE OF THE TUBE AS SHOWN:



3. ON A CLEAR DAY MEASURE THE VOLTAGE ACROSS THE 100-OHM RESISTOR WHEN THE TUBE IS POINTED DIRECTLY AT THE SUN. THE TUBE IS PROPERLY POINTED WHEN ITS SHADOW DISAPPEARS AND WHEN THE VOLTAGE ACROSS THE 100-OHM RESISTOR REACHES A PEAK.

MAKE MEASUREMENTS FROM EARLY MORNING TO NOON OR FROM NOON TO LATE AFTERNOON. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE INTERNET ACCESS YOU WILL NEED TO MEASURE THE ANGLE OF THE SUN OVER THE HORIZON AT EACH MEASUREMENT. RECORD YOUR DATA IN A NOTEBOOK UNDER THESE HEADINGS:

DATE:				
LOCATION: (TOWN AND COORDINATES)				
SKY CONDITION: (CLEAR? BLUE?)				
OBSERVER: (YOUR NAME)				
TIME	SIGNAL (VOLTS)	SIGNAL (LN)	SUN ANGLE	AIR MASS

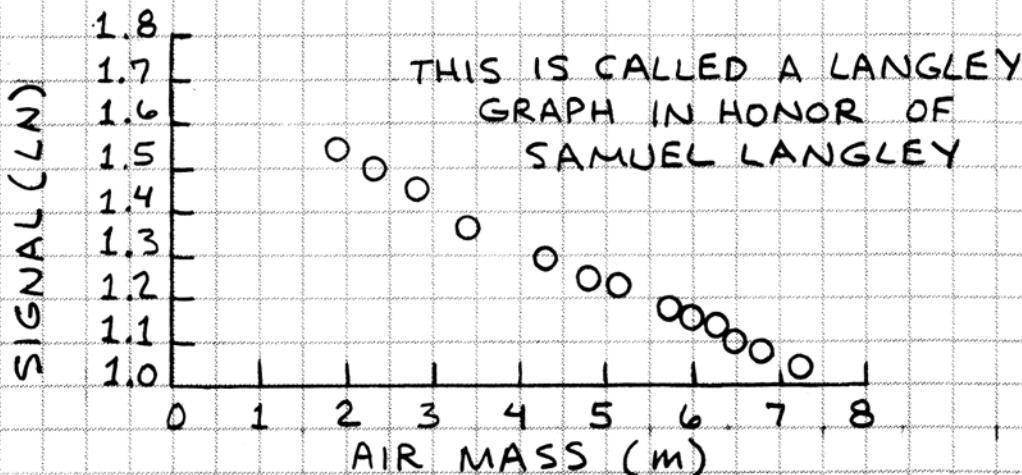
4. AIR MASS (m) IS THE THICKNESS OF THE ATMOSPHERE BETWEEN YOU AND THE SUN. $m = 1 / \sin \theta$, WHERE θ IS THE ANGLE OF THE SUN ABOVE THE HORIZON. FIND m FOR EACH TIME YOU MADE A MEASUREMENT. USE THE SUN ANGLES YOU MEASURED. OR VISIT A SEARCH ENGINE ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB AND ENTER "SUN ANGLE CALCULATOR." CHECK THE WEB SITES AND SELECT A CALCULATOR YOU LIKE. FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS TO FIND THE SUN ANGLE FOR EACH TIME. CALCULATE m FOR EACH ANGLE AND ENTER THE RESULTS IN YOUR NOTEBOOK.

5. USE THE LN KEY ON A SCIENTIFIC CALCULATOR TO CONVERT THE SIGNALS YOU MEASURED TO THEIR NATURAL LOGARITHMS. ENTER THE RESULTS IN YOUR NOTEBOOK. HERE ARE SOME OF MY RESULTS:

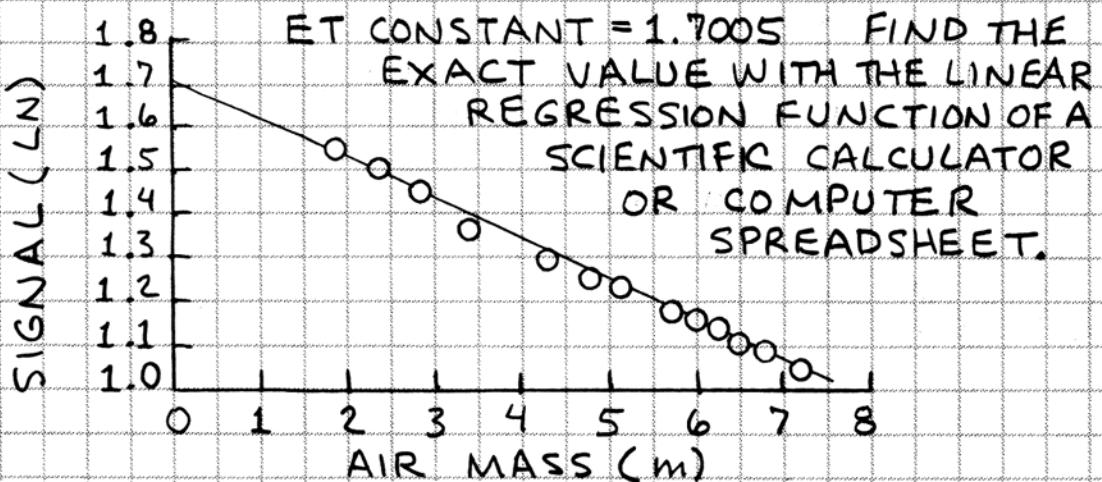
DATE: FEBRUARY 21, 1999
 LOCATION: GERONIMO CREEK, TEXAS
 SKY CONDITION: CLEAR AND BLUE
 OBSERVER: FORREST M. MIMS III

TIME	SIGNAL (VOLTS)	SIGNAL (LN)	SUN ANGLE	AIR MASS
1550:20	4.60	1.5261	30.09°	1.99
1616:00	4.44	1.4907	25.39°	2.33

6. GRAPH THE LN OF THE SIGNALS AND THEIR AIR MASSES. HERE'S MY GRAPH:



IF THE SKY WAS CLEAR, THE POINTS BETWEEN AN AIR MASS OF ABOUT 2 TO 6 SHOULD FORM A STRAIGHT LINE. DRAW A LINE THROUGH THESE POINTS AND EXTEND IT TO THE Y (VERTICAL) AXIS OF THE GRAPH (AIR MASS = 0). THE LN OF THE SIGNAL THE SOLAR CELL WILL PRODUCE ABOVE THE ATMOSPHERE, THE CELL'S EXTRATERRESTRIAL (ET) CONSTANT, IS WHERE THE LINE CROSSES THE Y AXIS.

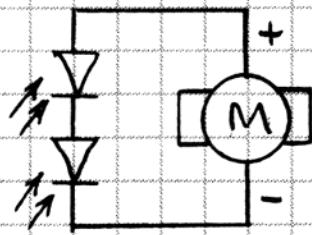


7. USE THE e^x KEY OF YOUR CALCULATOR TO CONVERT THE LN OF THE HIGHEST SIGNAL AT OR NEAR NOON AND THE ET CONSTANT TO THEIR ANTILOGS. DIVIDE THE ET CONSTANT BY THE NOON SIGNAL, SUBTRACT 1 AND ADD A % SIGN. THIS IS THE SOLAR CELL'S SPACE EFFICIENCY, THE INCREASE IN PERFORMANCE THE CELL WILL PROVIDE IN SPACE. THE SOLAR CELL I MEASURED HAS A SPACE EFFICIENCY OF +10.9 %. THIS IS REASONABLY CLOSE TO THE +14.6 % GIVEN BY SOLAREX. SOME OF THE DIFFERENCE IS BECAUSE THE LANGLEY METHOD WORKS BEST WITH A NARROW BAND OF WAVELENGTHS AND A SOLAR CELL DETECTS FROM ABOUT 400 TO 1100 NANOMETERS. DIFFERENCES ARE ALSO CAUSED BY DIFFERING AMOUNTS OF WATER VAPOR AND HAZE WHEN THE TESTS WERE CONDUCTED. WATER VAPOR IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT SINCE IT ABSORBS SOME NEAR INFRARED TO WHICH SOLAR CELLS ARE VERY SENSITIVE.

SOLAR POWERED MOTORS

SMALL DC MOTORS CAN BE POWERED BY SOLAR CELLS. SOME MOTORS REQUIRE ONLY A SINGLE CELL AND BRIGHT SUNLIGHT. MOST REQUIRE AN ARRAY OF SOLAR CELLS.

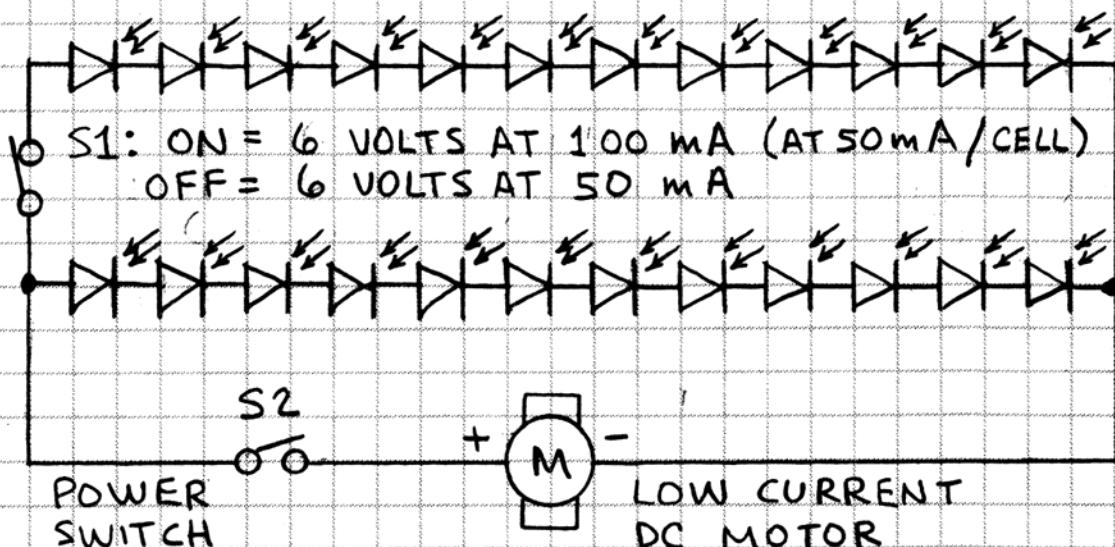
BASIC SOLAR POWERED MOTOR



A SINGLE SOLAR CELL GENERATES ENOUGH CURRENT TO POWER MOST SMALL DC MOTORS. ADD CELLS IN SERIES IF MORE VOLTAGE IS REQUIRED.

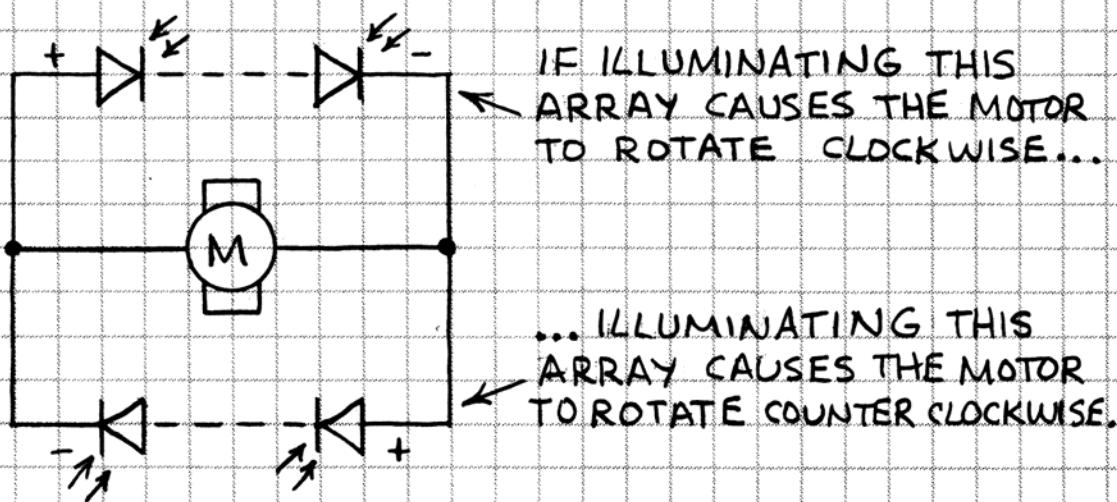
HIGHER POWER SOLAR MOTOR

A SOLAR CELL ARRAY THAT POWERS A MOTOR ON A BRIGHT SUMMER DAY MAY NOT PROVIDE ADEQUATE POWER DURING WINTER. THIS CIRCUIT FEATURES TWO SERIES ARRAYS CONNECTED IN PARALLEL TO PROVIDE DOUBLE THE CURRENT PRODUCED BY A SINGLE ARRAY. IF IDENTICAL 0.5 VOLT CELLS ARE USED AND IF EACH PRODUCES 50mA IN BRIGHT SUNLIGHT, THEN THIS ARRAY WILL PROVIDE 6 VOLTS (12 CELLS \times 0.5 VOLT) AND 100mA.



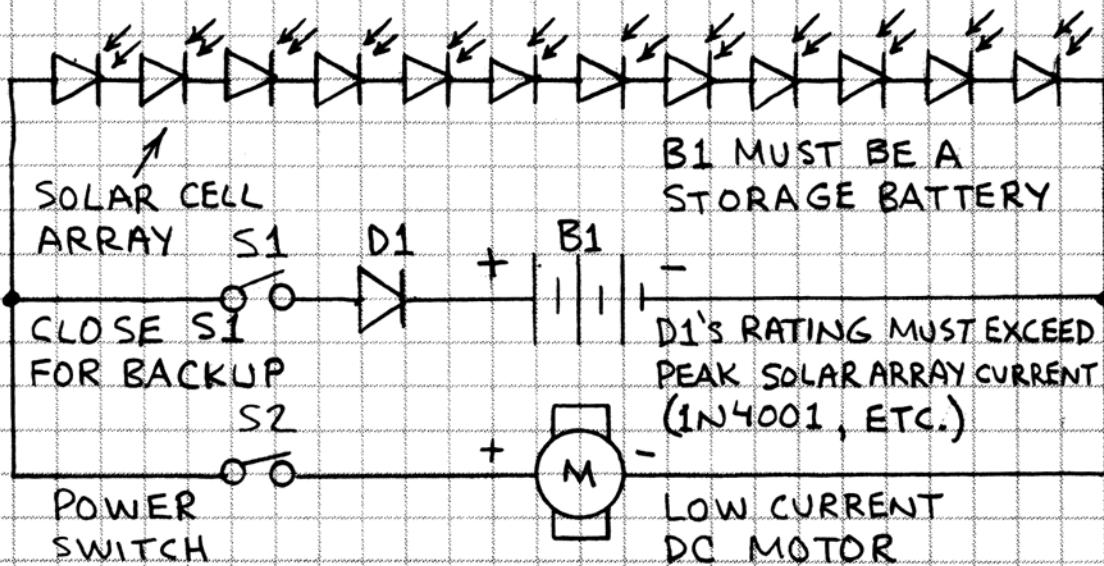
REVERSIBLE SOLAR MOTOR

A REVERSIBLE SOLAR POWERED MOTOR HAS APPLICATIONS IN ROBOTICS AND TRACKING THE SUN. THE ROTATION OF THE MOTOR BELOW IS CONTROLLED BY WHICH OF TWO SOLAR ARRAYS IS ILLUMINATED. WHEN BOTH ARRAYS ARE EQUALLY ILLUMINATED, THE MOTOR DOES NOT ROTATE.



SOLAR MOTOR WITH BATTERY BACKUP

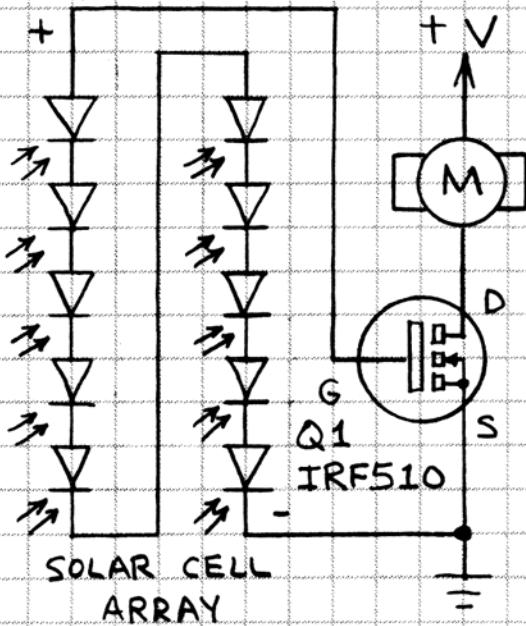
EVEN A BRIEF INTERRUPTION OF DIRECT SUNLIGHT WILL SLOW OR EVEN STOP A SOLAR POWERED MOTOR. A STORAGE BATTERY CONNECTED ACROSS THE MOTOR'S SOLAR CELL ARRAY WILL PROVIDE BACKUP POWER.



SOLAR ACTUATED MOTORS

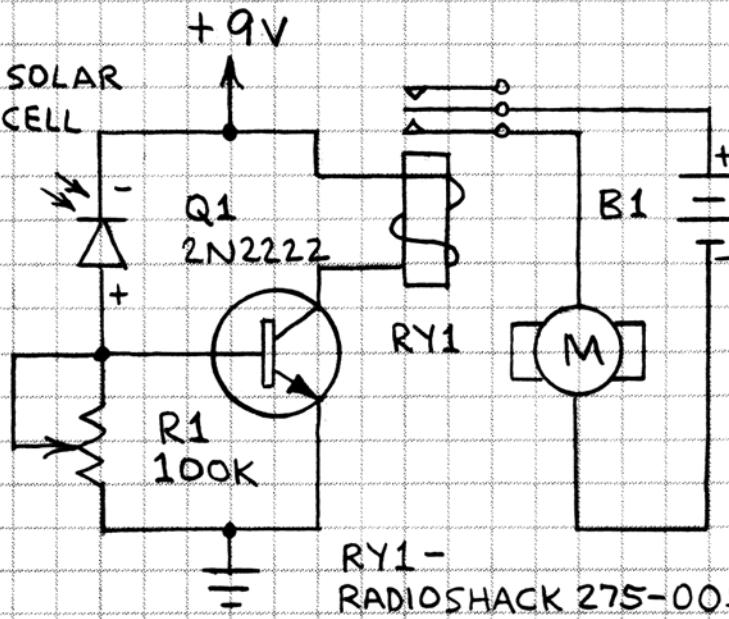
SOLAR CELLS HAVE MANY APPLICATIONS IN ROBOTICS AND CONTROL. THE CIRCUITS SHOWN HERE SWITCH SMALL DC MOTORS ON OR OFF WITH SUNLIGHT. SOME ARE SO SENSITIVE THEY CAN BE TRIGGERED WITH A SMALL FLASHLIGHT OR LASER POINTER.

POWER FET ACTUATOR (1)



THIS CIRCUIT WILL DRIVE A SMALL DC MOTOR WHEN THE IRF510 POWER MOSFET IS SWITCHED ON WITH ABOUT 4 VOLTS FROM A SOLAR CELL ARRAY. THE IRF510 CAN DRIVE A MOTOR THAT CONSUMES UP TO 2 AMPS. +V SHOULD NOT EXCEED THE MOTOR'S RATING.

TRANSISTOR ACTUATOR



THIS CIRCUIT USES A REVERSE BIASED SOLAR CELL TO SENSE LIGHT. R1 CONTROLS THE SENSITIVITY. USE CIRCUIT TO ACTUATE SMALL DC MOTOR (1 1/2 TO 6 VOLTS).

AMATEUR RADIO

RADIO COMMUNICATION HAS ALWAYS ATTRACTED MANY THOUSANDS OF ENTHUSIASTIC AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS. THEY WERE AMONG THE FIRST TO DISCOVER THAT SHORTWAVES PERMIT WORLDWIDE COMMUNICATION. THEY PROVIDE COMMUNICATIONS DURING NATURAL DISASTERS AND EMERGENCIES. AND THEY COMMUNICATE WITH FELLOW AMATEURS ACROSS TOWN AND HALF WAY AROUND THE WORLD.

AMATEUR OR HAM RADIO OPERATORS ARE LICENSED AND ASSIGNED A CALL SIGN BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. PROSPECTIVE HAMS MUST PASS A WRITTEN EXAM. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE (ARRL) IN NEWINGTON, CT 06111. THE ARRL SELLS EXCELLENT PUBLICATIONS FOR BOTH PROSPECTIVE AND ESTABLISHED HAMS.

CITIZENS BAND RADIO

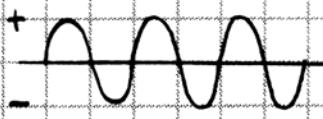
THE CITIZENS BAND IS 40 CHANNELS IN THE VICINITY OF 27 MHZ. THESE CHANNELS ARE INTENDED FOR TWO-WAY PERSONAL AND BUSINESS COMMUNICATION. ONE CHANNEL (9) IS RESERVED FOR EMERGENCY TRANSMISSIONS. THOUGH NO LICENSE IS REQUIRED, CITIZENS BAND (CB) OPERATORS HAVE FEWER PRIVILEGES THAN AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS. FOR EXAMPLE, MAXIMUM TRANSMITTED POWER IS LIMITED TO 4 WATTS.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

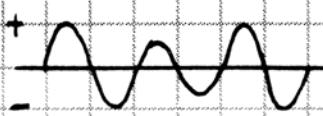
THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (FCC) REGULATES RADIO COMMUNICATION IN THE UNITED STATES. VIOLATIONS OF FCC REGULATIONS CAN RESULT IN SEVERE PENALTIES. YOU CAN WRITE THE FCC (GETTYSBURG, PA 17326) TO REQUEST INFORMATION ABOUT ITS REGULATIONS.

DIODE RECEIVER BASICS

A RADIO-FREQUENCY (RF) ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVE WILL CAUSE A FLUCTUATING CURRENT TO FLOW IN A WIRE ANTENNA:

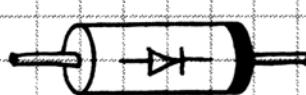
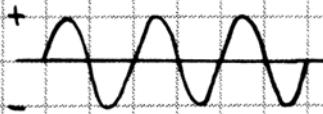


CURRENT PRODUCED BY TONE-MODULATED RF SIGNAL.



CURRENT PRODUCED BY VOICE-MODULATED RF SIGNAL.

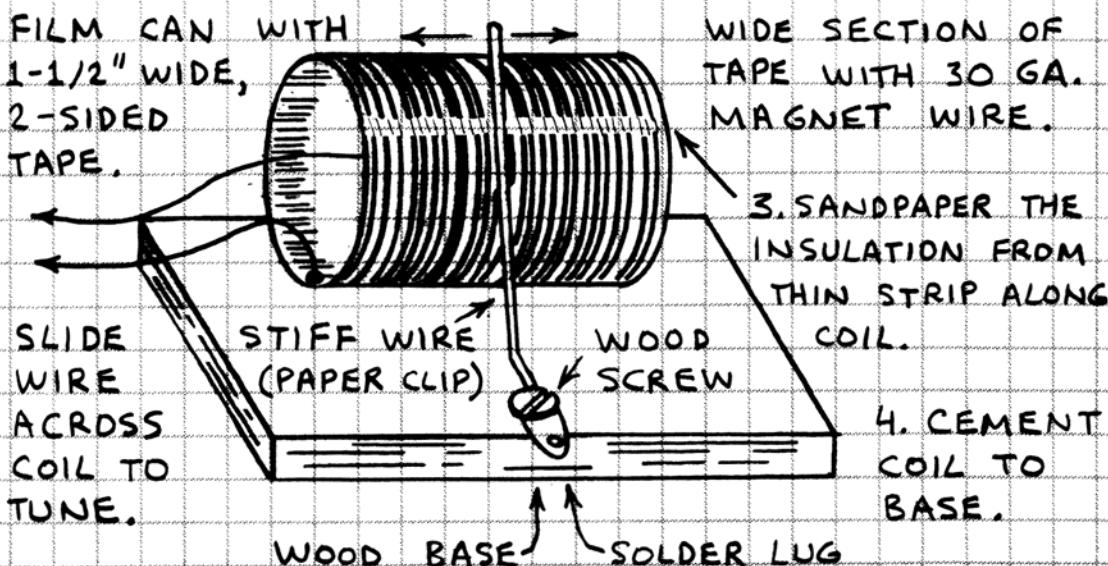
THE FLUCTUATING CURRENT CAN BE TRANSFORMED INTO SOUND BY REMOVING THE POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE HALF OF THE WAVE WITH A DIODE:



THE SIGNAL IS NOW SAID TO BE RECTIFIED. THE TWO HALVES OF THE WAVE WILL NOT CANCEL ONE ANOTHER WHEN THE OUTPUT IS MONITORED. THEREFORE THE AUDIO SIGNAL SUPERIMPOSED ON THE RF SIGNAL CAN BE HEARD FROM A SMALL EARPHONE CONNECTED TO THE DIODE.

SIMPLE RF TUNING COIL

1. WRAP PLASTIC FILM CAN WITH 1-1/2" WIDE, 2-SIDED TAPE.

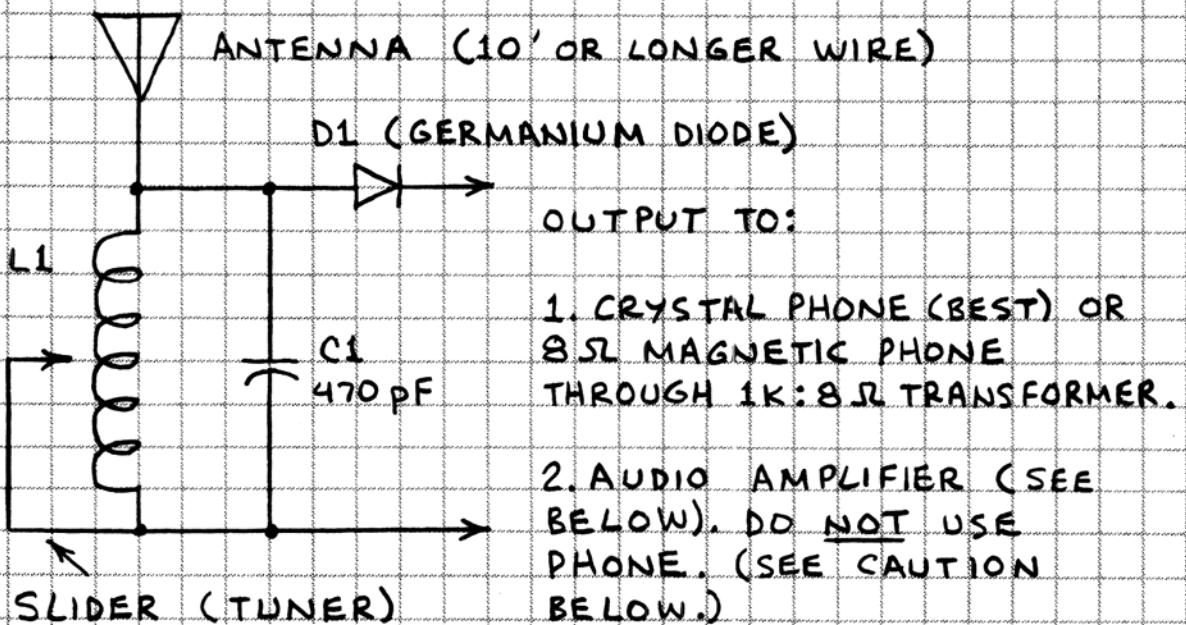


2. WRAP 1-3/8" WIDE SECTION OF TAPE WITH 30 GA. MAGNET WIRE.

3. SANDPAPER THE INSULATION FROM THIN STRIP ALONG

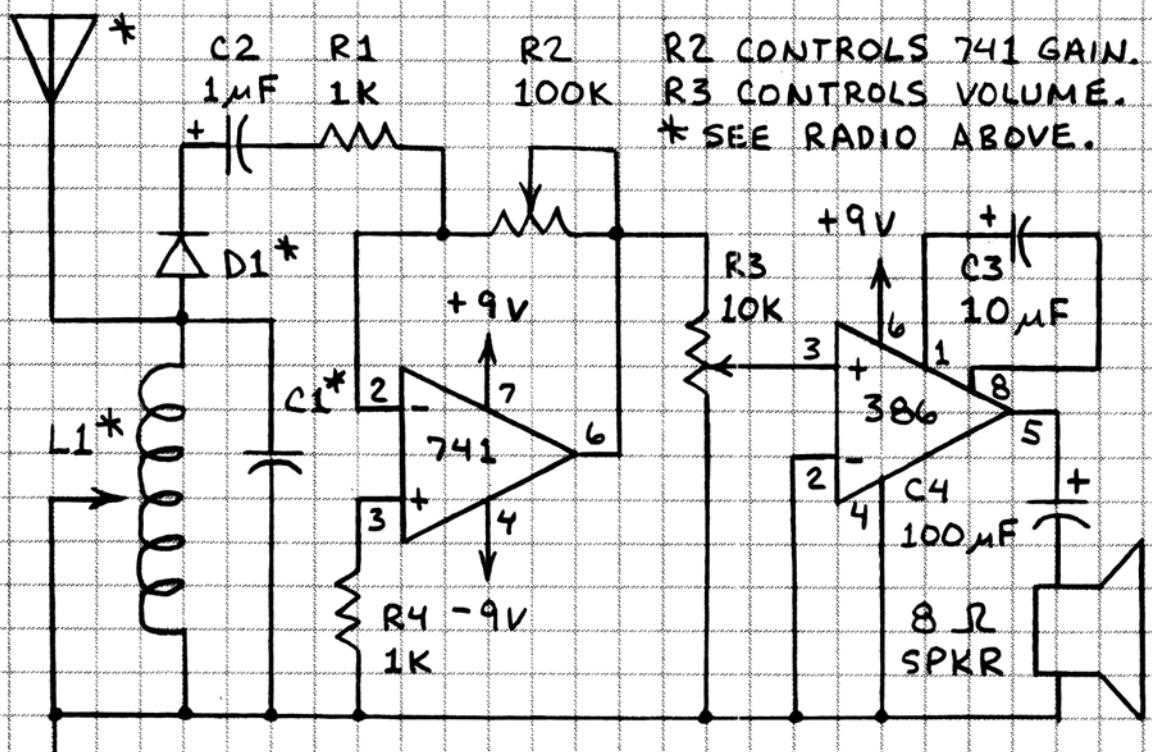
4. CEMENT COIL TO BASE.

SIMPLE DIODE RECEIVER



L1 IS COIL ON FACING PAGE. TUNING IS SENSITIVE. SOME STATIONS WILL COINCIDE WITH ONE WINDING.

RECEIVER WITH AMPLIFIER



- TUNE BY ADJUSTING SLIDER ON L1. LOUD POPS MAY OCCUR WHEN SLIDER IS MOVED. VOLUME CAN BE VERY LOUD. CAUTION: DON'T USE EARPHONES!

SHORTWAVE LISTENING

FEW Hobbies ARE AS REWARDING OR INTELLECTUALLY STIMULATING AS SHORTWAVE LISTENING. YET MANY PEOPLE HAVE NEVER LISTENED TO A SHORTWAVE RADIO. EVEN A VERY INEXPENSIVE SHORTWAVE RADIO CAN RECEIVE BROADCASTS FROM HUNDREDS OF STATIONS AROUND THE WORLD. MANY OF THEM ARE IN ENGLISH. SHORTWAVE BROADCASTS CAN BE DIVIDED INTO THREE BROAD CATEGORIES:

INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTS—THESE ORIGINATE FROM BOTH PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT STATIONS AND ARE INTENDED FOR A WIDE AUDIENCE. PROGRAMMING, OFTEN IN ENGLISH, INCLUDES NEWS, WEATHER, INTERVIEWS, DRAMA AND LISTENER MAIL.

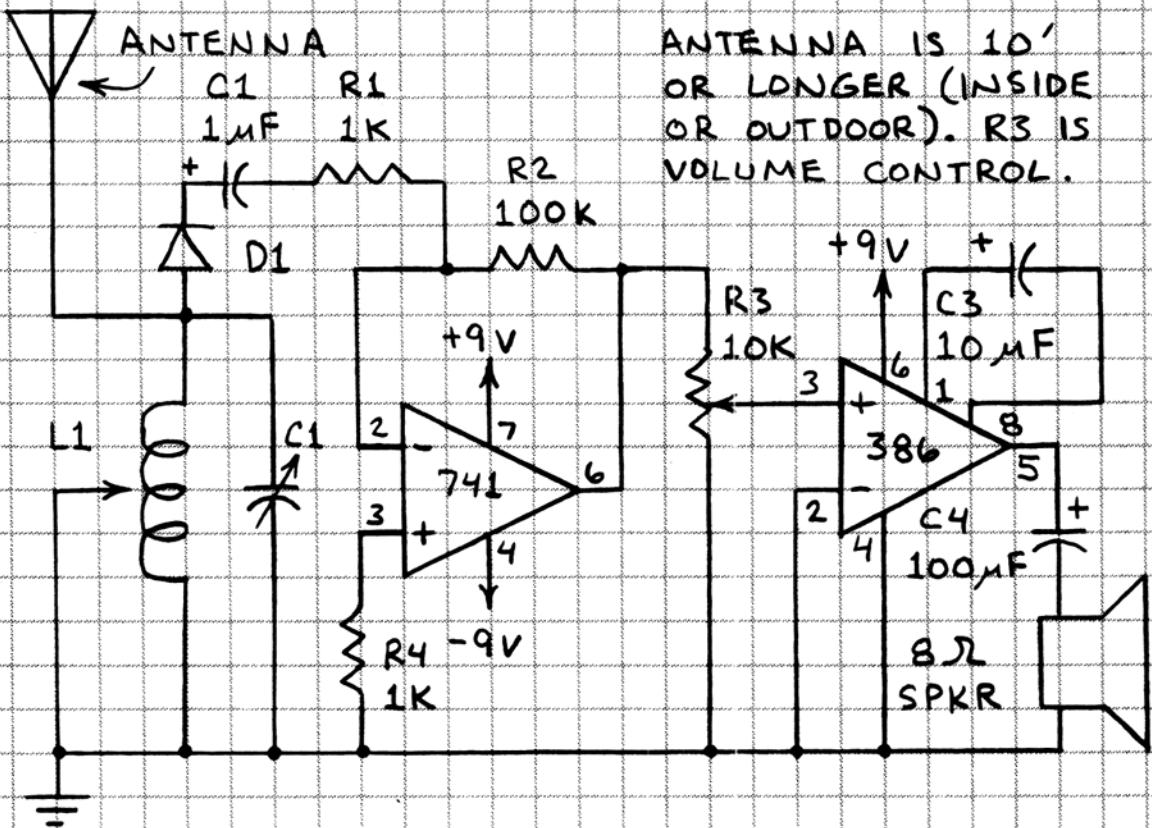
PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS—THIS CATEGORY INCLUDES AMATEUR AND CITIZENS BAND RADIO.

UTILITIES—VIRTUALLY ALL BROADCASTS NOT LISTED ABOVE CAN BE CONSIDERED UTILITIES. THESE INCLUDE TIME SIGNALS, COMPUTER TRANSMISSIONS, WEATHER REPORTS, SATELLITE SIGNALS AND MANY KINDS OF INDUSTRIAL AND GOVERNMENT TRANSMISSIONS. INCLUDED ARE TELECOMMUNICATIONS TO AND FROM SHIPS, AIRCRAFT, TAXIS AND COMMERCIAL VEHICLES. ALSO INCLUDED ARE TRANSMISSIONS FROM SPY, RADIO CONTROL, TRACKING, SURVEILLANCE, TELEMETRY, WEATHER BALLOON AND OCEAN BUOY TRANSMITTERS.

MANY OF THESE TRANSMISSIONS ARE BROADCAST AT FREQUENCIES BETWEEN THE BROADCAST BAND AND 30 MHz. THE SIMPLE RECEIVER ON THE FACING PAGE CAN RECEIVE SIGNALS FROM 1 TO 6 MHz. IN ONE EVENING THIS RADIO RECEIVED SIGNALS FROM ASIA, EUROPE, SOUTH AMERICA AND NORTH AMERICA. THE ANTENNA WAS A 14' INDOOR WIRE.

SHORTWAVE RECEIVER

THIS SIMPLE RECEIVER CAN BE ASSEMBLED ON A SOLDERLESS BREADBOARD. THOUGH THIS RECEIVER DOES NOT SEPARATE STATIONS AS WELL AS A COMMERCIAL RECEIVER, IT IS SURPRISINGLY SENSITIVE AND WILL RECEIVE STATIONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD.



L1 IS 25-50 TURNS OF 30 GAUGE MAGNET WIRE WRAPPED AROUND PLASTIC FILM CAN. SEE TUNING COIL ASSEMBLY DETAILS ON PAGE 34.

C1 IS 10-365 pF VARIABLE CAPACITOR FROM DISCARDED RADIO OR 10-40 pF OR SO CRYSTAL OSCILLATOR TUNING CAPACITOR.

TUNE BY SETTING L1'S SLIDER TO ANY POSITION AND ADJUST C1. CHANGE L1'S SLIDER POSITION FOR DIFFERENT FREQUENCY RANGES.

CAUTION: VOLUME CAN BE VERY LOUD, ESPECIALLY WHEN L1'S SLIDER IS MOVED AWAY FROM L1 AND LOCAL STATIONS BOOM IN. NO EARPHONES!

ANTENNAS

THE PERFORMANCE OF RADIO TRANSMITTERS AND RECEIVERS IS VERY MUCH DEPENDENT ON THEIR ANTENNAS. THE SIMPLEST ANTENNA IS A WIRE OR ROD WHOSE LENGTH EQUALS OR IS 1/4 OR 1/2 THE WAVELENGTH OF THE RECEIVED SIGNAL. THREE COMMON WIRE ANTENNAS ARE:

VERTICAL WHIP



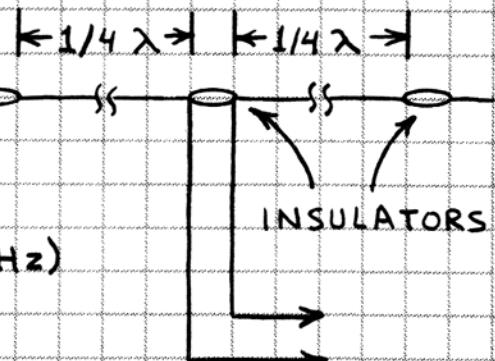
λ = WAVELENGTH
L = LENGTH (FT)
F = FREQUENCY

FOR $1/4 \lambda$,
 $L = 234/F$ (MHz)

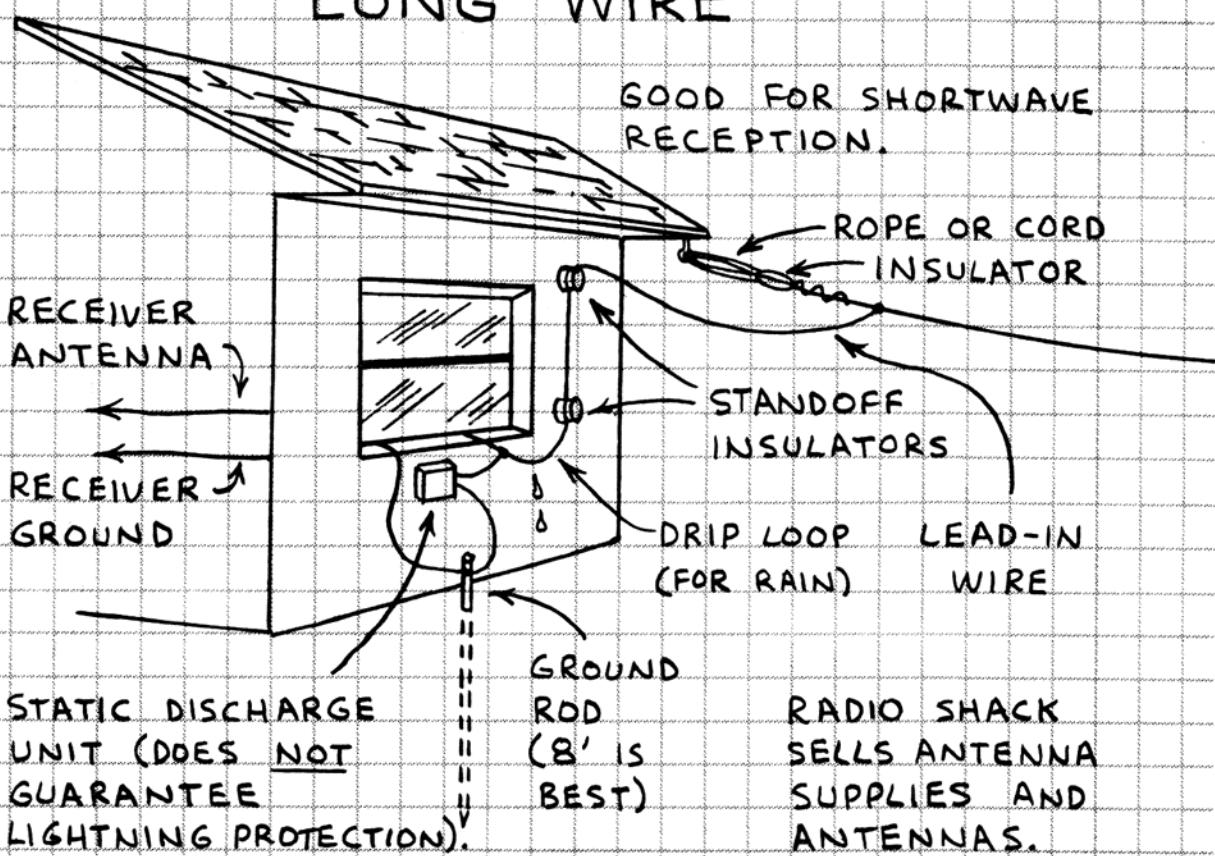
EXAMPLE:

$1/4 \lambda$ 27 MHz CB
 $WHIP = 234/27 = 8.67$ FT

DIPOLE



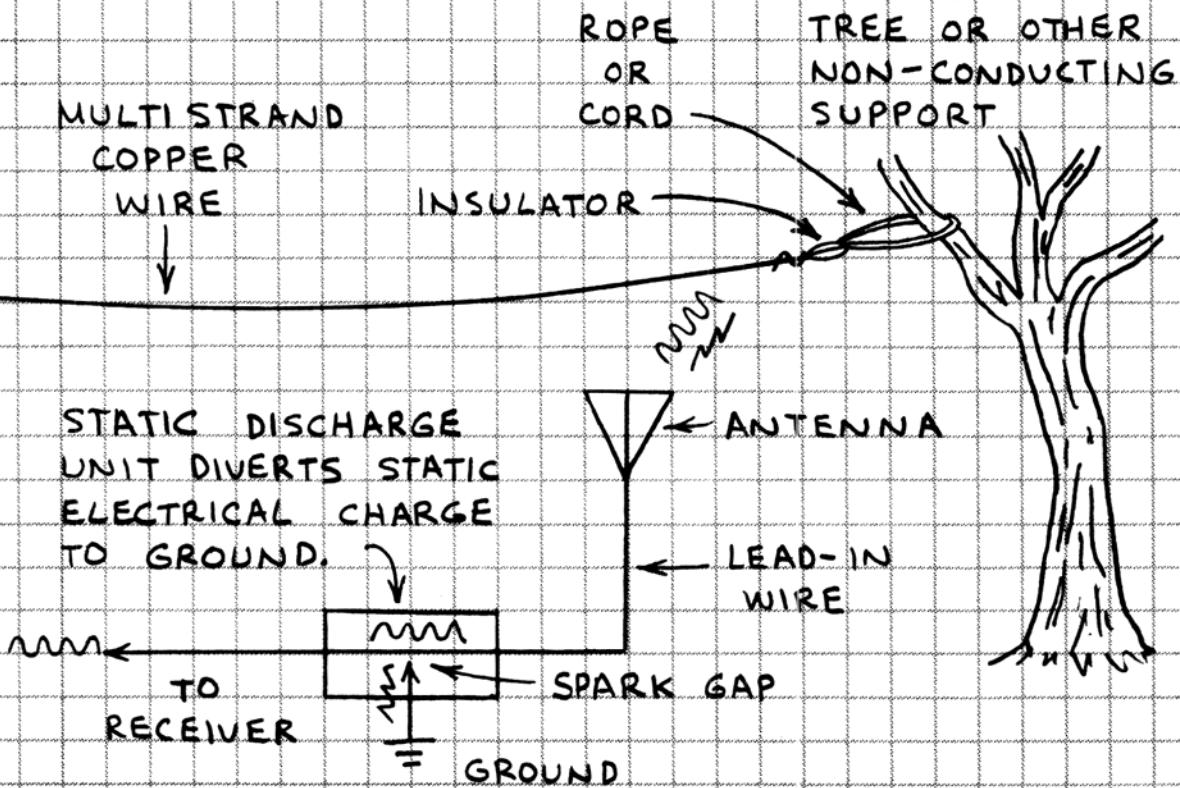
LONG WIRE



ANTENNA SAFETY

THE INSTALLATION OF AN ANTENNA REQUIRES CAREFUL ATTENTION TO SAFETY. CARELESSNESS CAN RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR A FATAL ELECTRICAL SHOCK. YOU MUST:

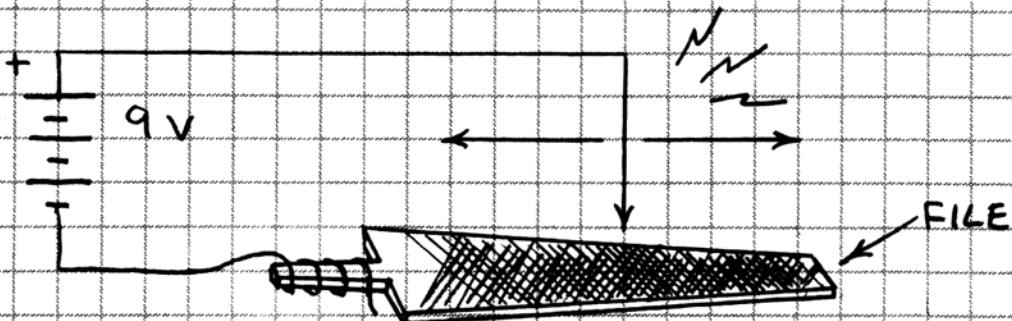
1. NEVER INSTALL ANY PART OF AN ANTENNA NEAR A POWER LINE.
2. NEVER TOUCH ANY PART OF AN ANTENNA THAT CONTACTS A POWER LINE.
3. DISCONNECT AND DO NOT USE AN ANTENNA DURING AN ELECTRICAL STORM.
4. CONNECT OUTDOOR ANTENNAS TO A WELL GROUNDED STATIC DISCHARGE UNIT.
5. READ THE ANTENNA SAFETY TIPS SUPPLIED WITH COMMERCIAL ANTENNAS AND GIVEN IN "THE ARRL ANTENNA HANDBOOK."



BASIC RADIO TRANSMITTERS

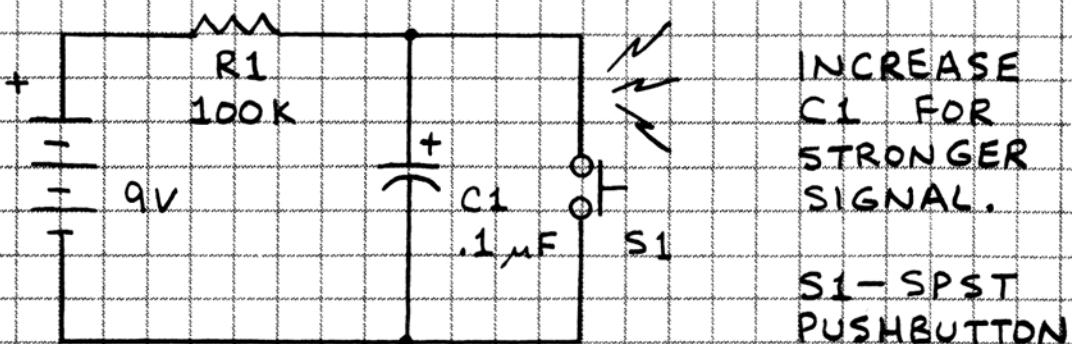
RADIO-FREQUENCY (RF) WAVES ARE CREATED WHEN AN ELECTRICAL CURRENT IS SWITCHED RAPIDLY ON OR OFF. THIS IS WHY A RADIO RECEIVER EMITS A BURST OF STATIC DURING A LIGHTNING DISCHARGE OR A POP WHEN A NEARBY APPLIANCE IS SWITCHED ON.

BROADBAND RF TRANSMITTER



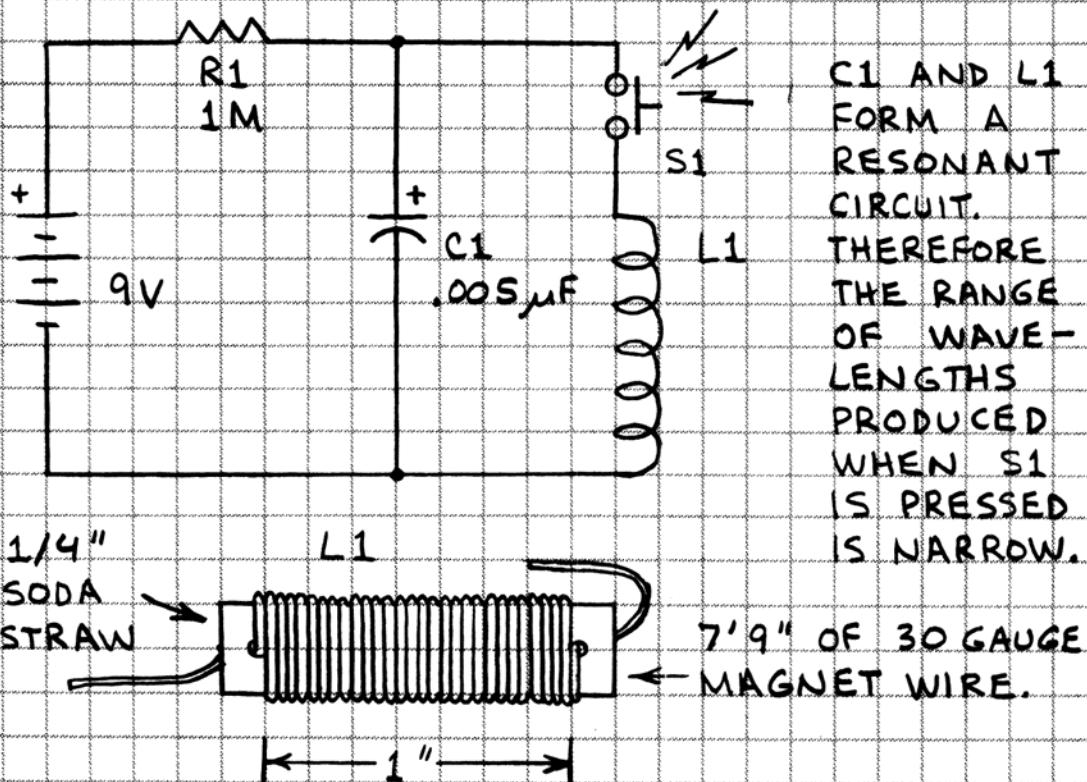
STROKE WIRE ACROSS FILE. BURSTS OF NOISE WILL BE EMITTED BY A NEARBY RADIO. SINCE MANY DIFFERENT WAVELENGTHS ARE PRODUCED ("HASH"), THE SIGNAL IS EQUALLY STRONG ACROSS THE BROADCAST BAND.

BROADBAND PULSE TRANSMITTER



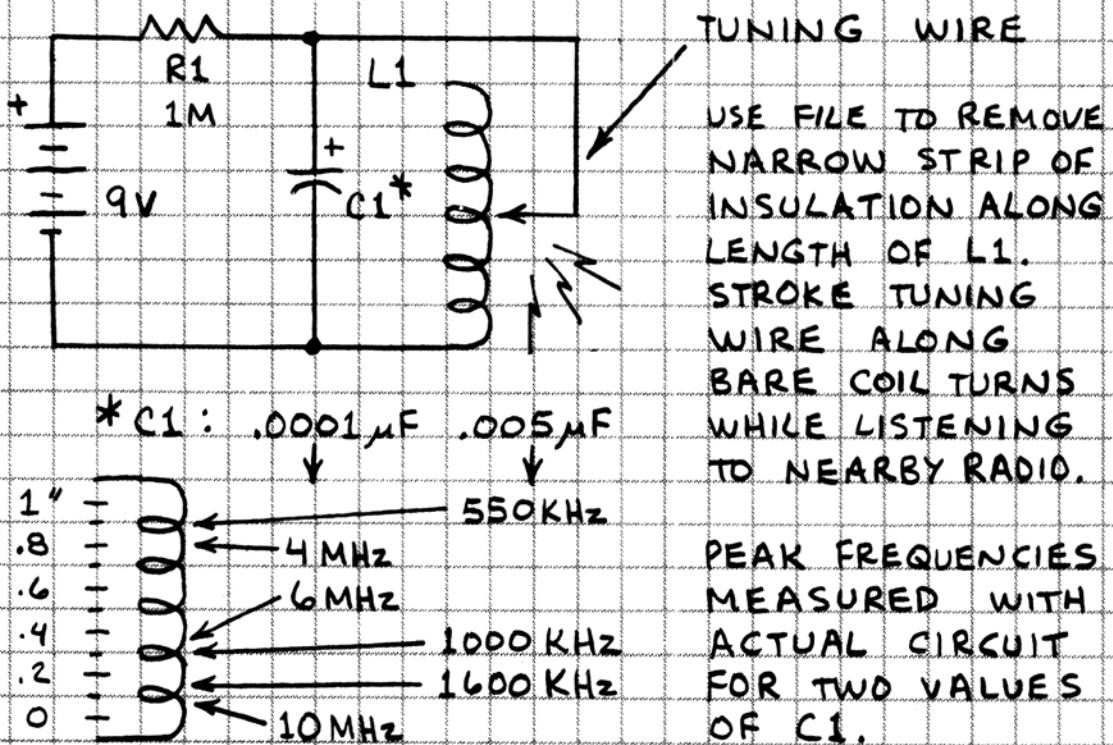
WHEN S1 IS PRESSED A DISTINCT "POP" WILL BE HEARD FROM A NEARBY RADIO. THIS CIRCUIT AVOIDS A DIRECT SHORT CIRCUIT ACROSS THE BATTERY. INSTEAD C1 IS SHORTED BY S1 AFTER BEING CHARGED THROUGH R1.

NARROW BAND RF TRANSMITTER



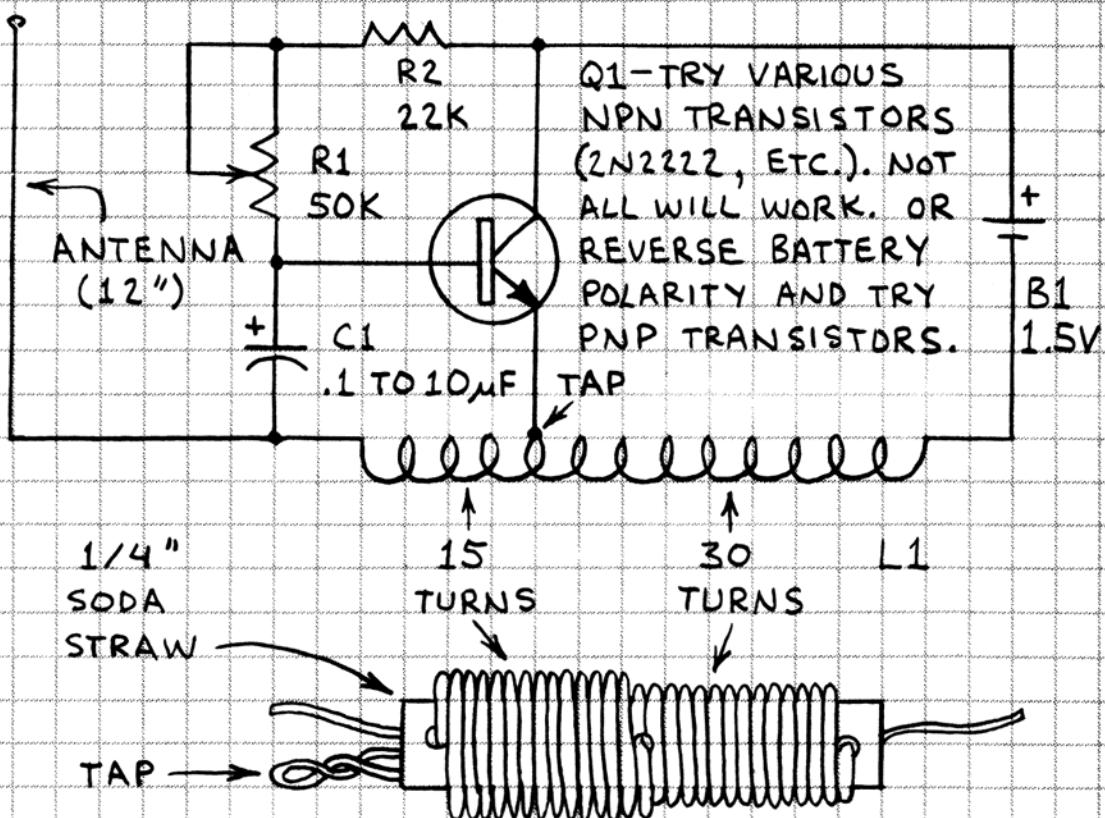
SIGNAL PEAKS AT 550 KHz WHEN $C1 = 0.005 \mu F$.

TUNABLE RF TRANSMITTER



TRANSISTOR RF TRANSMITTER

A SINGLE TRANSISTOR CAN BE CONNECTED AS AN OSCILLATOR THAT SUPPLIES A SERIES OF RADIO-FREQUENCY PULSES. THE BASIC HARTLEY OSCILLATOR SHOWN HERE WILL SEND RF PULSES TO A SHORTWAVE OR BROADCAST BAND RADIO SEVERAL FEET AWAY.



L1 IS A HOMEMADE AIR-CORE RF COIL. USE 30 GAUGE WRAPPING WIRE OR MAGNET WIRE. (USE MAGNET WIRE FOR SMALLER COIL. BURN THE VARNISH FROM ENDS OF L1 WITH A MATCH AND LIGHTLY BUFF CHARRED VARNISH WITH SAND PAPER.) BEFORE WINDING, PUNCH SMALL HOLE IN ONE END OF STRAW (RIGHT END OF COIL ABOVE). INSERT 2" OF WIRE THROUGH HOLE AND WIND 30 TURNS. PUNCH SECOND SMALL HOLE (LEFT END OF COIL) AND INSERT 2" LOOP OF WIRE (TAP) THROUGH HOLE. WIND BACK 15 TURNS BACK OVER FIRST WINDING, PUNCH HOLE THROUGH WINDING AND INSERT END OF WIRE. IF WRAPPING WIRE IS USED, CUT TAP LOOP AND TWIST EXPOSED WIRES.

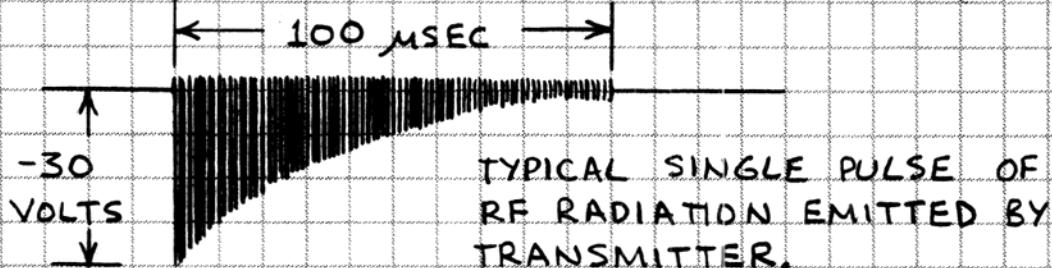
C1: USE 0.1 μ F TO TRANSMIT AN AUDIO TONE. USE 10 μ F TO TRANSMIT A STREAM OF POCKS. USE A MINIATURE ELECTROLYTIC CAPACITOR.

R1: CHANGE R1'S SETTING TO VARY OSCILLATION FREQUENCY.

B1: USE A PENLIGHT CELL OR A MERCURY OR SILVER OXIDE BUTTON CELL. WARNING: NEVER ATTEMPT TO SOLDER LEADS TO MINIATURE POWER CELLS! THEY WILL EXPLODE.

CIRCUIT OPERATION

THIS TRANSMITTER EMITS AN RF SIGNAL THAT CAN BE RECEIVED ACROSS A WIDE PART OF THE BROADCAST AND SHORTWAVE SPECTRUM, PARTICULARLY THE 16-METER BAND AND BEYOND. THE SIGNAL CAN ALSO BE RECEIVED AT THE LOW END OF THE 88- TO 108-MHz FM BAND.



EACH TRANSMITTED PULSE IS AN ENVELOPE OF BROAD SPECTRUM RF OSCILLATIONS RATHER THAN A PURE, SINGLE FREQUENCY SIGNAL. NOTE THAT THE AUTOTRANSFORMER ACTION OF L1 INCREASES THE OUTPUT FROM 1.5 TO -30 VOLTS.

TO TRANSMIT TEMPERATURE OR LIGHT INTENSITY, REPLACE R1 WITH A THERMISTOR OR CADMIUM SULFIDE PHOTORESISTOR. USE A VALUE FOR C1 THAT GIVES A PULSE RATE OF A FEW PULSES PER SECOND. WITH THE HELP OF A DIGITAL WATCH OR TIMER, YOU CAN THEN COUNT THE NUMBER OF PULSES IN, SAY, 10 SECONDS FOR EACH OF SEVERAL INPUT CONDITIONS.

CODE TRANSMITTER

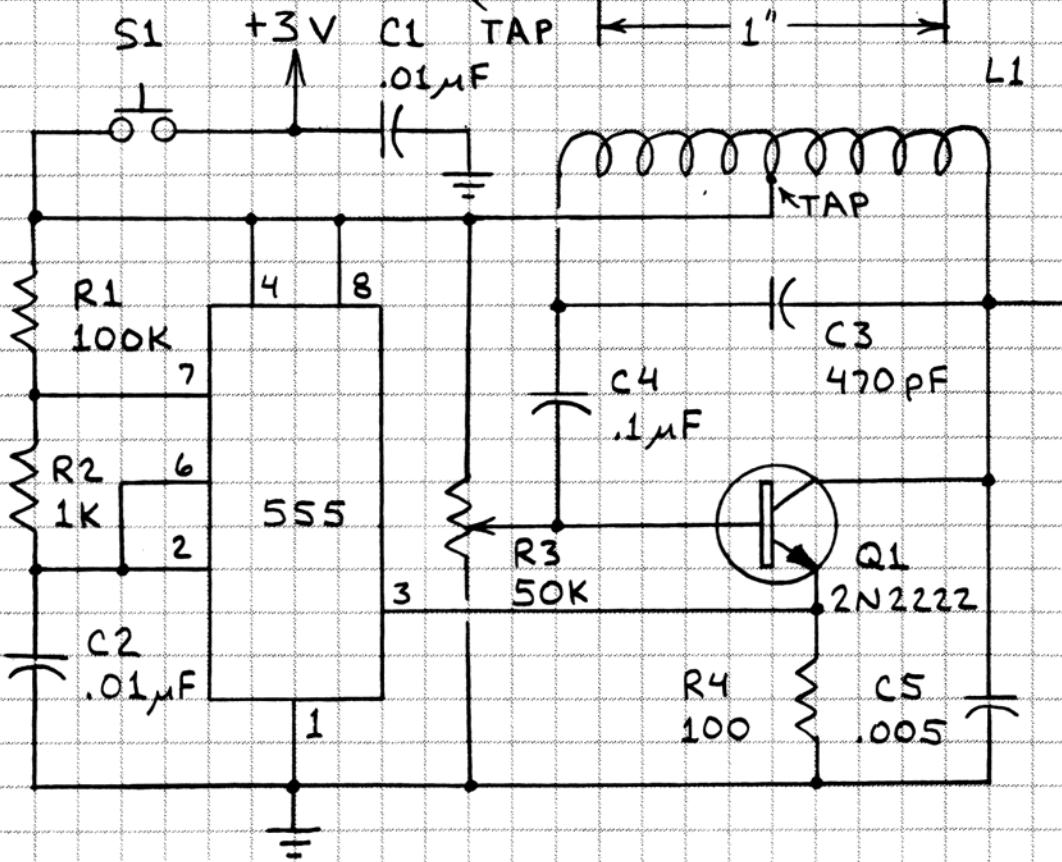
THIS TRANSMITTER WILL SEND TONE TO NEARBY BROADCAST BAND RADIO TUNED TO NEAR 700 KHZ. TRANSMITTING RANGE IS SEVERAL FEET.

ANTENNA → (9' 9" MAXIMUM)

L1 IS AIR CORE COIL. USE 8' OF 30 GAUGE MAGNET WIRE. TAP IS AT CENTER OF COIL.

1/4" SODA STRAW

PRESS S1 TO TRANSMIT TONE.



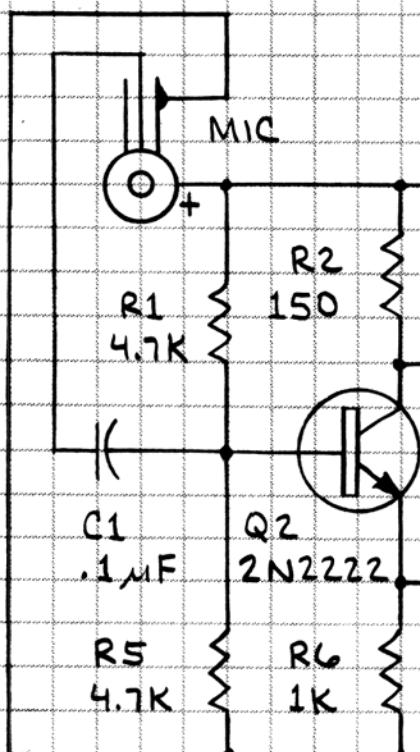
L1: FORM 1-1/2" LOOP AT CENTER OF 8' WIRE. WIND WIRE ON STRAW, INSERTING LOOP THROUGH HOLE PUNCHED IN CENTER OF STRAW.

RF OUTPUT IS CLEAN SINE WAVE NEAR 700 KHZ. ADJUST R3 FOR CLEAR, LOUD TONE. RETUNE RADIO AS NECESSARY. INSERT SMALL STEEL NAIL INSIDE L1 TO LOWER TRANSMISSION FREQUENCY. USE DURING DAY FOR MAXIMUM RANGE.

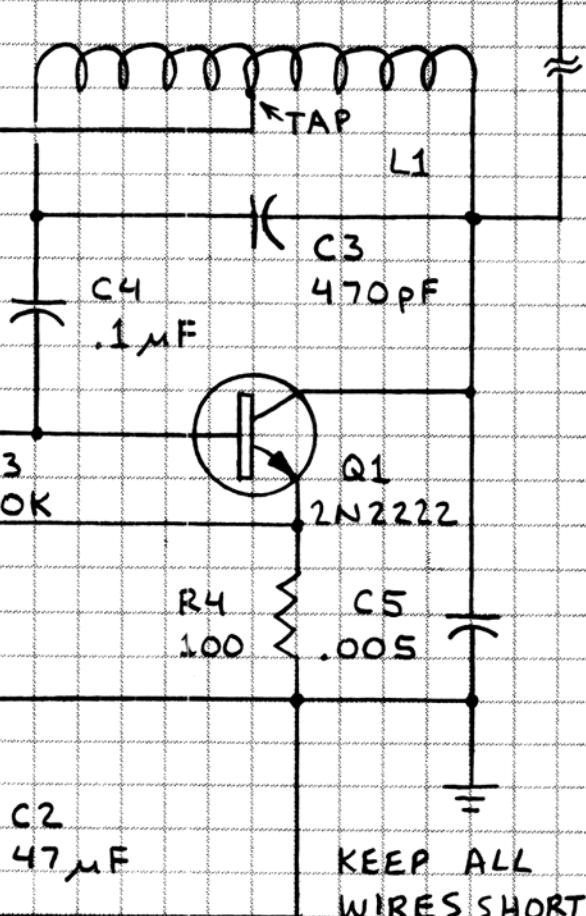
VOICE TRANSMITTER

THE RF OSCILLATOR OF THIS TRANSMITTER IS IDENTICAL TO THE ONE ON THE FACING PAGE. REFER THERE FOR L1 ASSEMBLY.

INPUT IS ELECTRET MICROPHONE. OK TO CONNECT 1K SIDE OF 8Ω:1K TRANSFORMER TO INPUT.



ANTENNA →
(9'9" MAXIMUM)

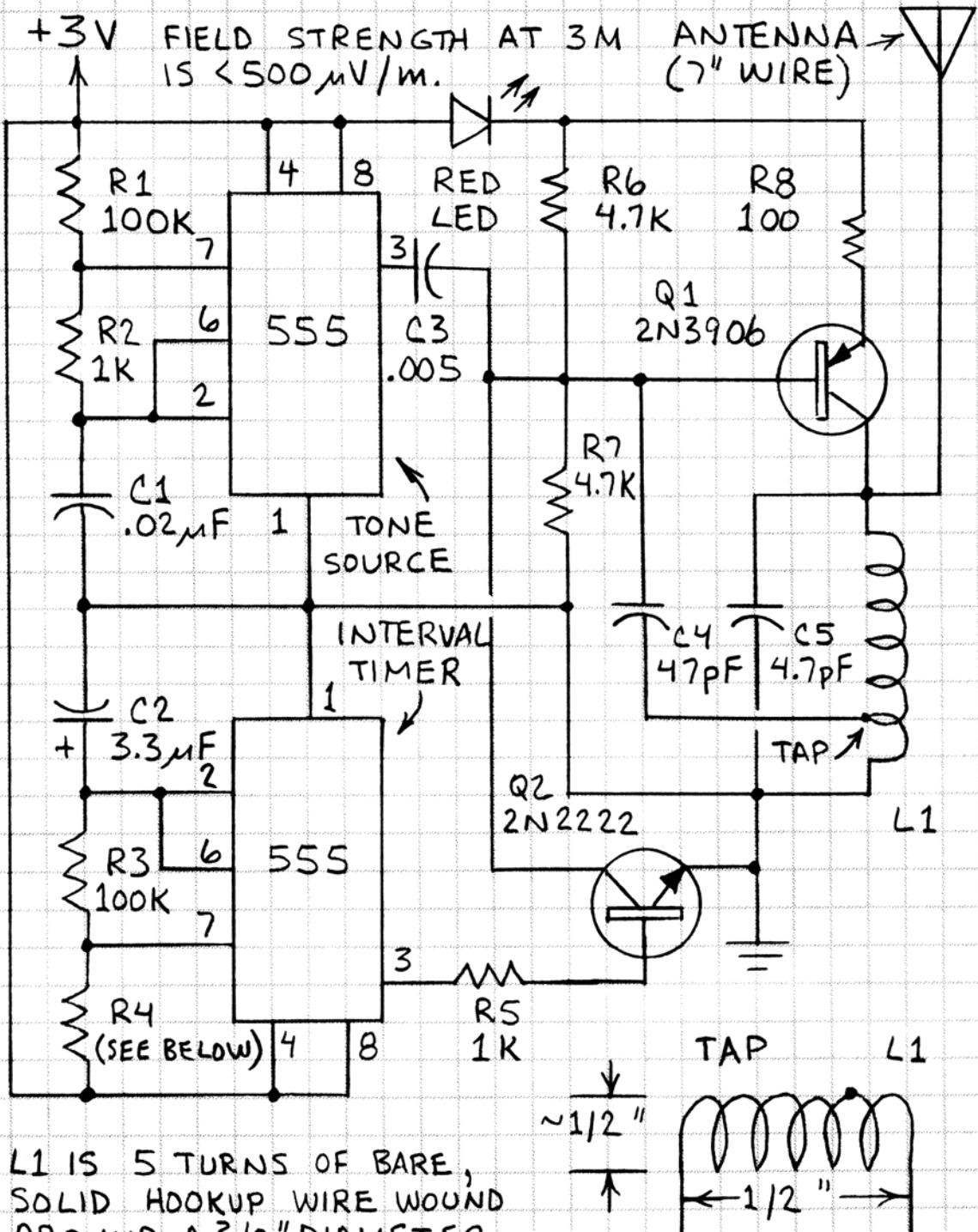


RF OUTPUT IS CLEAN SINE WAVE NEAR 700 KHz. PLACE MICROPHONE CLOSE TO EARPHONE CONNECTED TO TAPE RECORDER. THEN TUNE NEARBY RADIO TO RECEIVE SIGNAL FROM TRANSMITTER. ADJUST R3 FOR BEST SOUND. RETUNE RADIO AS NECESSARY. REMOVE RECORDER AND SPEAK INTO MICROPHONE.

THE TRANSMITTERS ON THIS AND FACING PAGE CONFORM TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FCC GIVEN IN 47 CFR, PART 15.113 WHEN R3 IS ADJUSTED FOR CLEAREST OUTPUT SIGNAL, R1 IS 3 VOLTS AND THE ANTENNA LENGTH < 3 METERS.

AUTOMATIC TONE TRANSMITTER

THIS CIRCUIT TRANSMITS A BRIEF (1/4 SECOND) TONE BURST ONCE EVERY 10 SECONDS TO AN FM BAND RECEIVER UP TO A FEW HUNDRED FEET AWAY.

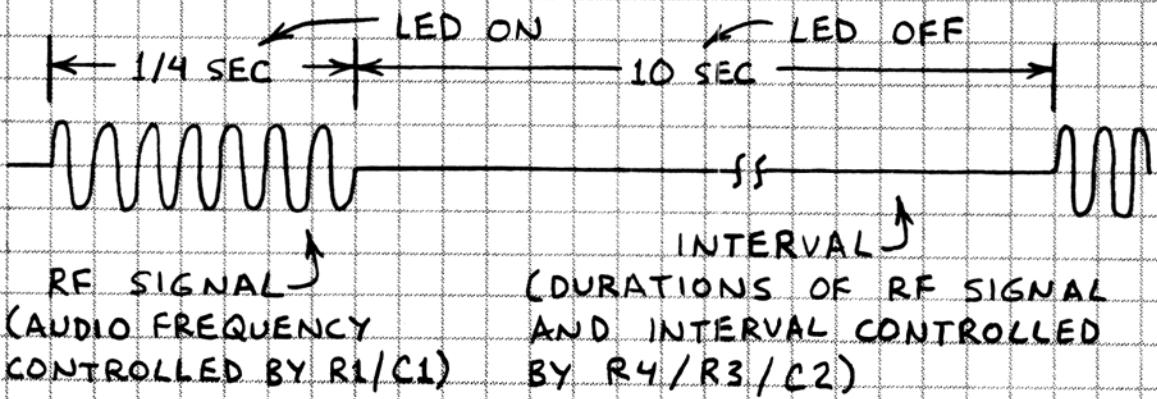


L1 IS 5 TURNS OF BARE,
 SOLID HOOKUP WIRE WOUND
 AROUND A 3/8" DIAMETER
 WOOD DOWEL. REMOVE DOWEL AFTER WINDING.
 TAP IS WIRE SOLDERED AT 1-1/2 TURNS POINT.

R4 IS 3.9 M OR 2 2.2 M RESISTORS IN SERIES.

CIRCUIT OPERATION

Q1 OSCILLATES AT A FREQUENCY CONTROLLED BY CS AND L1. VALUES SHOWN GIVE FREQUENCY NEAR 100 MHZ. USE VARIABLE CAPACITOR FOR CS TO VARY FREQUENCY.



TO ADJUST, DISCONNECT Q2'S COLLECTOR FROM C3. TUNE FM RADIO UNTIL STEADY TONE IS RECEIVED. RECONNECT Q2. DO NOT OPERATE CIRCUIT IN CONTINUOUS TONE MODE UNLESS ADJUSTMENTS ARE BEING MADE. (SEE FCC RULES BELOW AND ON FOLLOWING PAGE.) INSTALL CIRCUIT IN ALUMINUM BOX. MOUNT L1 SECURELY TO CIRCUIT BOARD. IF L1 MOVES OR VIBRATES, THE FREQUENCY WILL SHIFT. BOTH 555 CHIPS CAN BE CMOS / LOW-POWER TYPES, BUT NOT ALL CMOS 555'S WILL WORK IN CIRCUIT. USE CIRCUIT FOR PAGING, REMOTE CONTROL, TRACKING, ANNOUNCING VISITORS, ETC. TO TRANSMIT LIGHT LEVEL OR TEMPERATURE AS A VARIABLE TONE, REPLACE R1 WITH PHOTORESISTOR OR THERMISTOR.

SPECIAL FCC RULE

THE FCC REQUIRES THAT "...THE DURATION OF EACH TRANSMISSION SHALL NOT BE GREATER THAN ONE SECOND AND THE SILENT PERIOD BETWEEN TRANSMISSIONS SHALL BE AT LEAST 30 TIMES THE TRANSMISSION DURATION BUT IN NO CASE LESS THAN 10 SECONDS." (47 CFR 15.122) WITH THE VALUES FOR R3, R4 AND C2 GIVEN HERE, THIS CIRCUIT FULFILLS THIS RULE. SEE NEXT PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL RULES.

FCC REGULATIONS

FCC RULES YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT INCLUDE:

1. EAVESDROPPING IS PROHIBITED.
2. A LOW-POWER TRANSMITTER THAT INTERFERES WITH RADIO OR TELEVISION RECEPTION MUST NOT BE OPERATED.
3. REQUIRED HOME-BUILT TRANSMITTER LABEL:

I HAVE CONSTRUCTED THIS DEVICE FOR MY OWN USE. I HAVE TESTED IT AND CERTIFY THAT IT COMPLIES WITH THE APPLICABLE REGULATIONS OF FCC RULES PART 15. A COPY OF MY MEASUREMENTS IS IN MY POSSESSION AND IS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION.

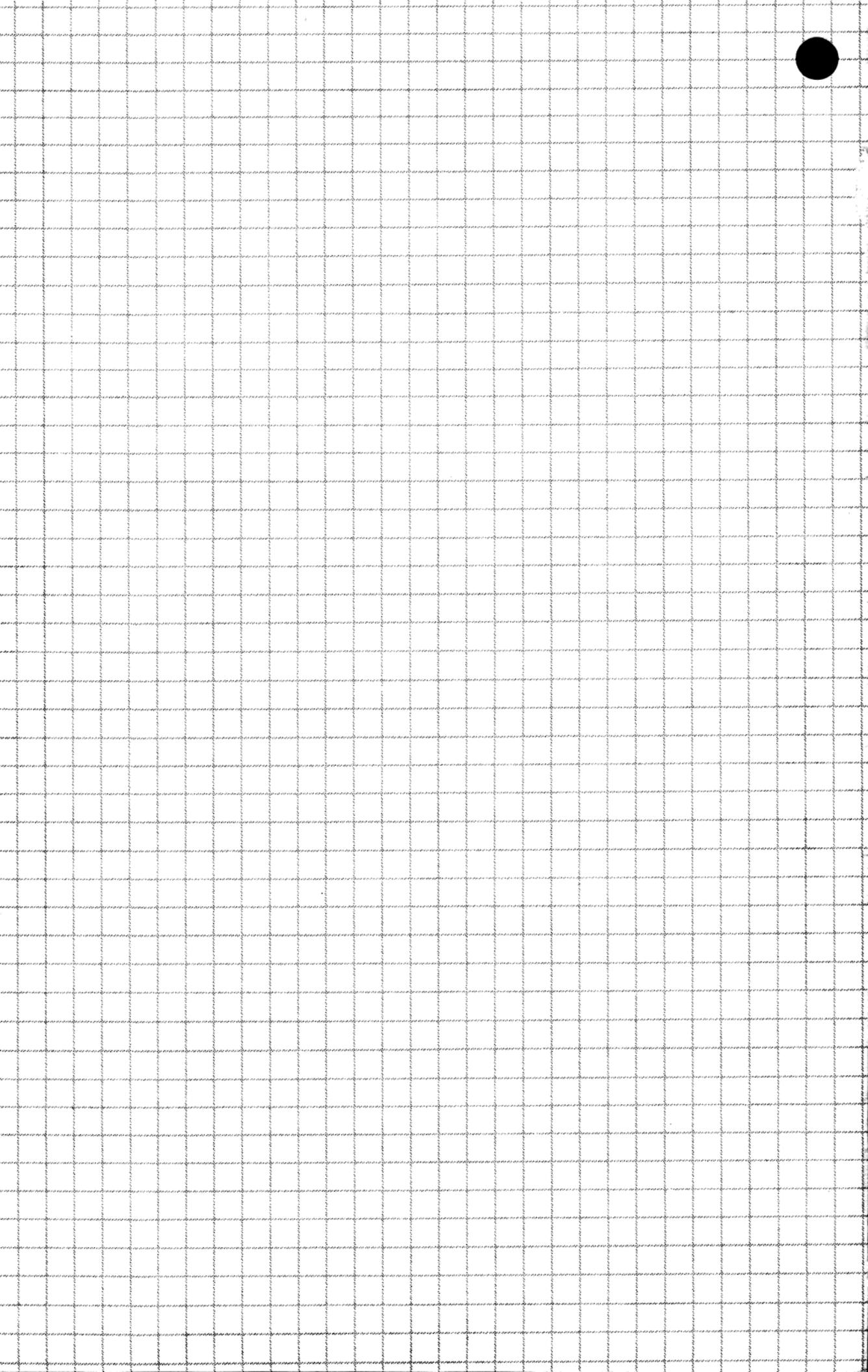
SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

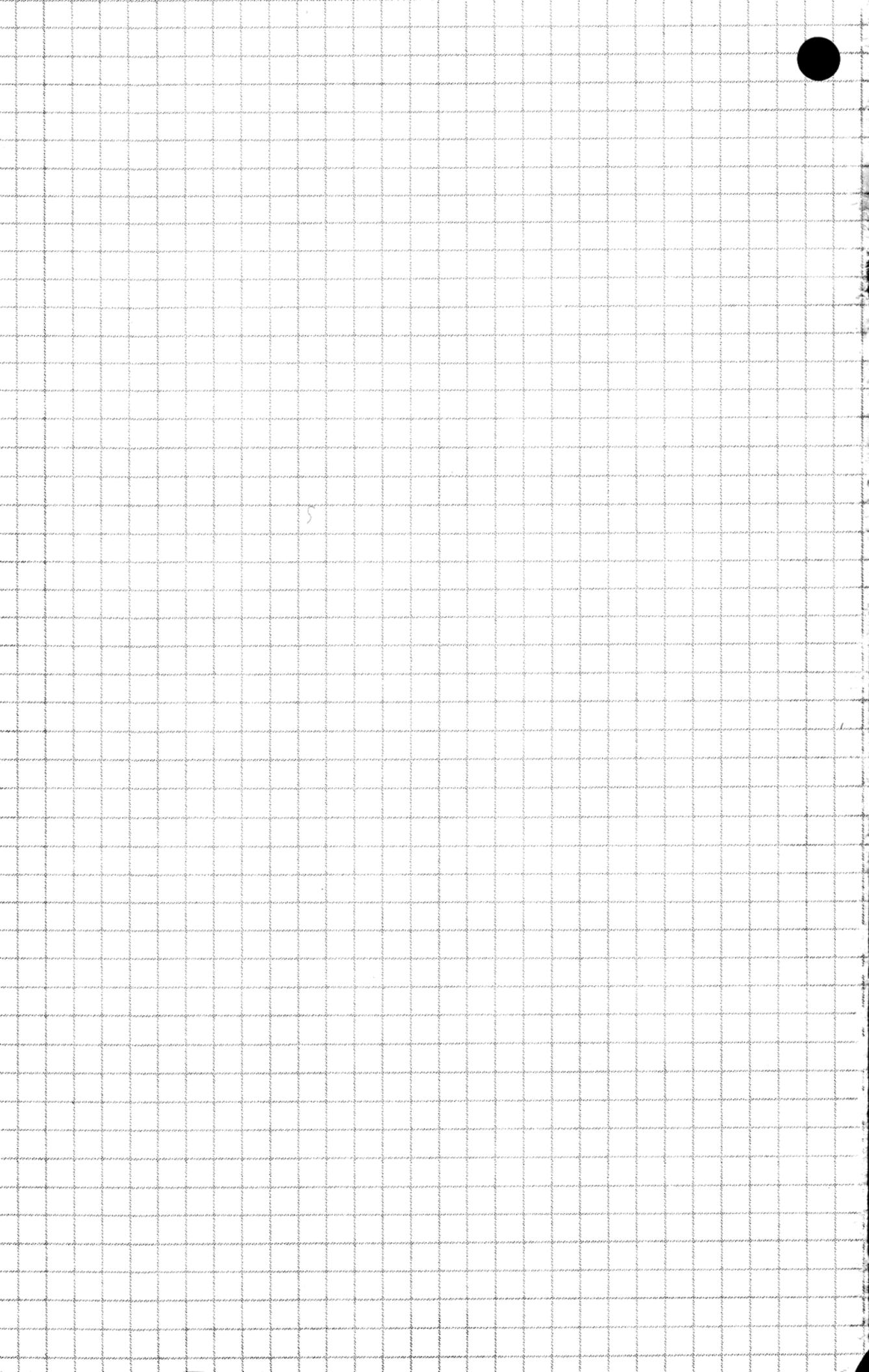
ADDITIONAL RULES GIVE PERMISSIBLE SIGNAL STRENGTHS AND OTHER RESTRICTIONS. SEE 47 CFR, PART 15 FOR DETAILS (WRITE TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS, U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, WASHINGTON, DC 20402).

GOING FURTHER

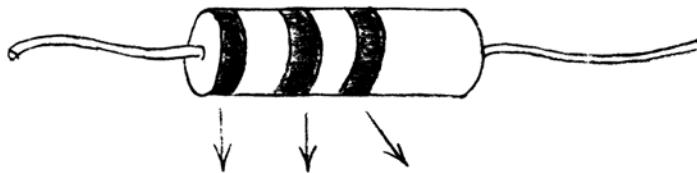
RADIO SHACK SELLS EASILY ASSEMBLED TRANSMITTER AND RECEIVER KITS. RADIO SHACK ALSO SELLS A WIDE RANGE OF CB EQUIPMENT. BOOKS ABOUT RADIO COMMUNICATIONS CAN BE FOUND AT MOST LIBRARIES. POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS, 73, QST AND CQ ARE SOME OF THE MAGAZINES DEVOTED TO THE SUBJECT.

PROBABLY THE BEST GUIDE TO AMATEUR RADIO IS "THE ARRL HANDBOOK FOR THE RADIO AMATEUR." THIS ALL-INCLUSIVE BOOK, WHICH IS REVISED EACH YEAR, IS AVAILABLE FROM THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE (NEWINGTON, CT 06111).





RESISTOR COLOR CODE



BLACK	0	0	$\times 1$
BROWN	1	1	$\times 10$
RED	2	2	$\times 100$
ORANGE	3	3	$\times 1,000$
YELLOW	4	4	$\times 10,000$
GREEN	5	5	$\times 100,000$
BLUE	6	6	$\times 1,000,000$
VIOLET	7	7	$\times 10,000,000$
GRAY	8	8	$\times 100,000,000$
WHITE	9	9	—

FOURTH BAND INDICATES TOLERANCE (ACCURACY):
GOLD = $\pm 5\%$ SILVER = $\pm 10\%$ NONE = $\pm 20\%$

OHM'S LAW: $V = IR$ $R = V/I$
 $I = V/R$ $P = VI = I^2R$

ABBREVIATIONS

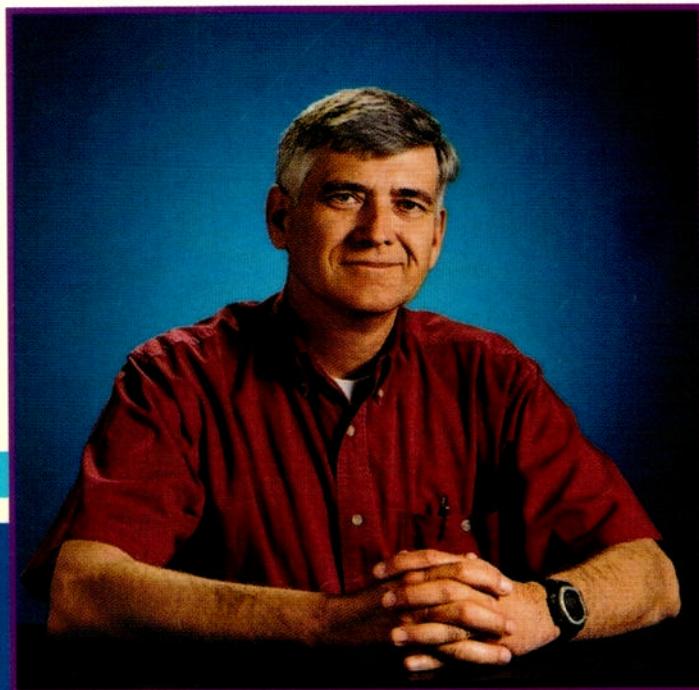
A = AMPERE	R = RESISTANCE
F = FARAD	V (OR E) = VOLT
I = CURRENT	W = WATT
P = POWER	Ω = OHM

M (MEG-)	= $\times 1,000,000$
K (KILO-)	= $\times 1,000$
m (MILLI-)	= .001
μ (MICRO-)	= .000 001
n (NANO-)	= .000 000 001
p (PICO-)	= .000 000 000 001

Electronic sensors convert light, temperature, sound, magnetic fields and other signals into a form that can be processed by electronic circuits. Sensors have become an increasingly important segment of modern electronics.

This volume of the Engineer's Mini-Notebook Collection includes three best-selling Mini-Notebooks devoted to sensors: "Sensor Projects," "Solar Cell Projects" and "Magnet and Magnet Sensor Projects." Learn about important sensors like

solar cells, photoresistors, thermistors, hall-effect devices and magnet switches. Then use these sensors to build circuits and projects that respond to heat, pressure, light, touch, water, strain, lightning and magnets. You can even make a circuit that detects the presence of the cursor on your computer screen and the position of a compass needle.



Forrest M. Mims III

Forrest M. Mims III has written dozens of books for RadioShack. He personally builds every circuit in his best-selling Engineer's Mini-Notebook series. He then uses a 0.7mm mechanical pencil to create pages for the finished book.

Building tiny instruments for model rockets, travel aids for the blind and high-power lasers is how Forrest got his start in electronics. When he's not writing RadioShack books, he writes magazine articles and teaches experimental science at the University of the Nations in Hawaii.

Forrest also does scientific studies of sunlight, the atmosphere, mosquitoes and bacteria using instruments he designs and makes. A simple instrument he developed to measure the ozone layer earned him a prestigious Rolex Award. NASA has sent Forrest and his instruments to several of the Western states and twice to Brazil to measure the effects of smoke from giant fires.

Forrest is a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the National Science Teachers Association and several scientific societies. He lives in Texas with his wife Minnie and their youngest daughter Sarah.

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